

Iran threatens customers who switch to cheaper oil

The two-tier pricing structure by the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries may lead to cuts in oil sales for the 11 members who raised prices by 10 per cent. Iran, one of the 11, faced with a 10 per cent cut is threatening to put customers on a black list if they do not keep to their buying quotas.

Black list warning to 25 buyers

By Roger Vielvoje, Energy Correspondent

Iran, one of the 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (Opec) who decided to increase oil prices by 10 per cent from January 1, is in danger of losing one-tenth of its expected oil sales this year because of a cut in the requirements of 25 customers.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) gave a warning in a statement from Tehran that this was due to undercutting by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the two Opec members which fought for a 5 per cent price increase at last month's meeting in Doha.

But NIOC gave a warning that customers who did not meet their purchase contracts would be put on an Opec black list and the Iranian Government would take any action it deemed necessary.

Iran is the second of the price hawks to face a cut in oil production as its customers switch to cheaper supplies from Saudi Arabia and the UAE. On Tuesday, Mr Abdul Mutaleb al-Kazemi, Kuwait's oil minister, said a number of buyers had asked for reduced quantities of crude oil this year.

There was speculation that pressure of this kind might lead to bigger discounts and other forms of unofficial price cutting among the 11 as the difficulties of working a two-tiered pricing structure became apparent. It would be difficult to work such a system unless the members of the Opec agreed among themselves to cut production by more than the amount Saudi Arabia and the UAE increased their output.

There were also suggestions that pressure on countries who put up their prices by 10 per cent could lead to early demands for an emergency meeting of the organization to thrash out a pricing compromise.

Australians sending Britain bill for buried nuclear waste

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Australia is to ask the British Government to recommend and pay for long-term safety measures to protect 800 tonnes of radioactive waste, left over from weapons research, and buried at three sites in Australia. The request from the Australian Government does not satisfy some anti-nuclear groups who are pressing for removal of the waste to Britain.

The material originates from military work by the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, when it was part of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

It started to accumulate in 1956 after the nuclear test at Monte Bello and subsequent experiments at Maralinga, South Australia. The discovery of a specific consignment, reported to be 41 kilograms of plutonium, buried in lead boxes, was the cause of the concern. Thought to be from a non-detoxified atomic bomb, it would be more concentrated than normal nuclear waste.

A request for records of all the material is being made by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, South Australia, and by co-operating agencies as a matter of urgency. They want strict monitoring procedures introduced in the storage areas.

According to the Foreign Office in London yesterday, the Australians know all there is to know about the waste already and only last month had checked to see they had the right information.

The extent of the waste disposal operations is beginning to emerge from investigations by a network of regional environmental centres set up by the Australian Government. On the mistaken belief that some of the wastes are by-products of British nuclear power stations, the more anxious anti-nuclear groups are demanding that it be returned to Britain.

Much of the misunderstanding comes from secrecy over defence matters. Nevertheless, the waste accumulation associated with weapons tests has been buried at Monte Bello, Emu and Maralinga. A plea for more information has been made by scientists, conservation and environmental groups who have also formed a "uranium moratorium" movement.

Mr Frank Muller, a member of the Regional Environment Centre in New South Wales, and a representative of the moratorium group, said yesterday that a five-year moratorium would give time to debate the issue publicly and to assess improvements in waste disposal, new safeguards for non-proliferation of weapons material and other issues causing anxiety.

The campaign, he said, was being extended through environmental and conservation organizations to halt shipments of 3,000 tonnes of uranium over the next few years for United States, West German and Japanese nuclear power stations.

Proposals to open new uranium mines in Australia, which would increase the country's dominance as a supplier of this ore, were also being opposed.

Sickness 'link with farm chemical'

From Jane E. Brody, New York, Jan 5

A medical study of more than 1,000 people living in Michigan has found that nearly one in three were suffering ill-health effects possibly caused by a toxic chemical that accidentally contaminated the state's farm produce in 1973.

The chemical, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), used in manufacture as a fire retardant, was accidentally mixed in animal feed, which was widely distributed in Michigan.

Earlier findings of the study by a New York medical team were presented this week to Governor William Milliken of Michigan. The findings are in sharp contrast to those of the Michigan Department of Health study of PCB-exposed farm families in 1974, which found no sign of ill-health related to the chemical.

Dr Irving Selikoff of Mount Sinai Medical Centre, the head of the New York team, urged immediate intensive follow-up studies both to clarify the effects of PCB on people and to find a drug that would speed elimination of the chemical from the body.

Governor Milliken told a news conference that he would ask the state's health department to review Dr Selikoff's findings and recommendations and determine what, if any, steps should be taken.

It seemed unlikely, however, that the state would do anything further until the Selikoff team produced more final results. Since analysis of PCB levels in the blood and fat have been completed for only 10 per cent of those examined, the team cannot yet relate the health effects found to actual levels of the toxic chemical.

However, Mr Milliken and Mr Bobby Crim, Speaker of the state House of Representatives, agreed that the permitted level of PCB in foods should be drastically lowered.

But lowering the level now would be like closing the stable door after the horse, since there are now only negligible

£1m secret profit for Slater group, court told

By Stewart Tandler

Shares and cash worth up to £1m were siphoned from a Singapore company into a private investment company for the benefit of Mr James Slater and some of his executives, it was alleged yesterday on the first day of an application by the Singapore Government to extradite Mr Slater and Mr Richard Tawling, a former executive.

Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, appearing for the Singapore Government, told Mr Kenneth Barraclough, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, that by the time the private company was wound up Mr Slater and Mr Tawling had each been paid £200,000.

Mr Waterhouse said: "This secret profit, made not only by Mr Slater and Mr Tawling but by other Slater, Walker executives, was never disclosed to other shareholders or directors. It was simply pocketed."

Mr Slater, aged 47, of High Beeches, Blackhill, Essex, Surrey, faces six charges connected with the private company, which was called Sydar Securities Ltd. Mr Tawling, aged 42, of Church Road, Wimbledon, London, formerly chairman of Haw Par Brothers International Ltd, the company that supplied the cash and shares, faces 17 charges involving Sydar and two other companies.

At the beginning of the hearing, for which 11 working days have been allocated, Mr Waterhouse said the application dwelt on events that occurred after Slater, Walker gained 46 per cent of the shares of Haw Par in 1971. That company was well known in the Far East for the manufacture and marketing of pharmaceuticals.

Until Slater, Walker withdrew its interest in 1974 the holding varied but the executive director of Haw Par was in the hands of executives from Slater, Walker. They were paid not by the Singapore company but by Slater, Walker, although they had the benefit of a Continued on page 2, col 3



From left to right: Mr Len Murray, Mr Clive Jenkins, Dr Joan Mitchell, Mr Hugh Stephenson and Sir John Pridemore.

Wilson team named for review of City's role

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke, Financial Editor

There was a subdued response in the City yesterday when the Prime Minister announced the composition of Sir Harold Wilson's committee to "review the functioning of the financial institutions."

Many were disappointed that no market specialists or merchant bankers were among the 17 names.

Mr Ian Fraser, chairman of the City Capital Markets Committee, said that it was a notable and regrettable omission that no direct representative of the securities industry had been included. He also regretted the absence of a company lawyer on the committee.

Mr Robert Fell, Chief Executive of The Stock Exchange, said that on balance The Stock Exchange felt the committee had the makings of a "reasonable team."

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is one of four prominent trade union figures in the list. Others are Lord Allen of Fallowfield, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers; Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs; and Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of the National Union of Bank Employees.

Mr Jenkins and Mr Mills, because of their unions' membership in the financial sector, are closely involved in the controversial debate over Labour Party proposals to nationalize major banks and insurance companies.

Academics on the new committee are Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, Director of the London School of Economics;

Professor Andrew Bain, Esme Fairbairn Professor of the Economics of Finance and Investment at the University of Stirling; Mr Andrew Graham, Fellow and Tutor in Economics at Balliol College, Oxford; and Dr John Mitchell, Reader in Economics at Nottingham University.

Representing interests in the business and financial world are Mr Gordon Bayley, director, manager and actuary of National Provident Institution for Mutual Life Assurance; Mr Zachary Brierley, chairman of a North Wales engineering business and a member of the Development Corporation for Wales; Sir Kenneth Bond, deputy managing director of the General Electric Company; Mr Kenneth Cork, senior partner in W. H. Cork, Gully, chartered accountants; Mr Richard Lloyd, chief executive of Williams and Glyn's Bank; Mr David Orr, chairman of Unilever Ltd; Sir John Pridemore, chairman of National Westminster Bank; Mr Hugh Stephenson, Editor of The Times Business News; and Mr Arthur Sugden, chief executive officer of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Its terms of reference are "to inquire into the role and functioning at home and abroad of financial institutions in the United Kingdom and their value to the economy; to review in particular the provision of funds for industry and trade; to consider what changes are required in the existing arrangements for the supervision of these institutions; including the possible extension of the public sector, and to make recommendations."

The committee could take about two years to complete its task.

Financial Editor, page 17

One dead and 54 hurt as school buses and a coal lorry crash

A man died and 54 people, most of them children, were injured in a crash in which a coal lorry rolled over and the side of a school bus was ripped open, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, yesterday.

The man who died was the driver of the lorry, Mr Matthew Garland, aged 34, of White Road, Stravelly, Derbyshire, who was trapped in his vehicle.

A second school bus was involved. Both were taking children from the colliery villages of Bilthorpe and Eakring to their comprehensive school at Rainworth, about five miles from Mansfield, for the start of the new term.

The crash occurred at Pythou Bill, Rainworth, and the police said it might have been caused by the greasy road surface. Three miles of the A617 was blocked for nearly six hours, and heavy lifting gear was called in to clear the wreckage.

Sixteen children and one of the bus drivers were still in hospital last night.

Two of the children were in the intensive care unit at Mansfield General Hospital. They are Evelyn Shepperson, of Saville Road, and Kevin Henson, of Church Street, both Bilthorpe. The driver, Mr Albert Elliot, of New Street, Rotherham, Nottinghamshire, was seriously injured.

A hundred children were travelling in the two double-deck buses. Firemen worked to free some of them from the wreckage while doctors gave pain-killing drugs. A public house was turned into a temporary hospital.

A senior policeman said: "The scene was like a battlefield. Children were wandering across fields in a state of shock."

Mr Brian Wilde, an ambulance officer from Mansfield,

Mr Benn orders rapid inquiry on gas blasts

By a Staff Reporter

An immediate inquiry into the recent gas explosions was ordered yesterday by Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of the British Gas Corporation. It appears that the inquiry is being established swiftly in order to reassure worried gas users and to ascertain whether new safeguards are needed.

The usual procedure in such cases would be for British Gas to complete its investigations into the incidents before the Department of Energy decided whether any further inquiry was necessary. However, Mr Benn has moved swiftly, bypassing that procedure. The type of inquiry is also unusual, as it will be carried out by both the department and the corporation, not for the department alone.

The inquiry panel of three will be chaired by Dr Philip King, senior lecturer in chemical engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Another member is likely to come from British Gas. The inquiry's report will be presented to Parliament and published as soon as possible.

The inquiry is asked to examine all the circumstances surrounding the recent incidents at Bristol, Brentford, Beckenham, Bradford and elsewhere, and to establish the extent of common factors that may have been present against the background of statistics relating to recent experience of serious gas explosions.

Photograph, page 3

Airline cuts the price of holidays

By Patricia Tisdall

British Airways, the state-owned airline, whose Sovereign and Enterprise holiday services are the third largest in Britain, said yesterday that it was reducing some holiday prices by between 12 and 13 per cent.

The offer, which will be heavily advertised, will apply to between 15,000 and 20,000 holidays booked between January 10 and March 31 for departure between April 1 and June 30. The discounts of £10 to £20 on brochure prices will apply to holidays in several countries, including Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Kenya and Mauritius.

The airline is also extending until further notice its "no surcharge guarantee" which was to have covered only holidays booked before the end of this month.

Like the rest of the holiday trade, British Airways has suffered a sharp fall in bookings. It says they are down by about a fifth compared with last year. The launching of the scheme was brought forward in response to an offer last week by Thomson Holidays to freeze prices.

British Airways said last night that hoteliers particularly in Spain, Portugal and Italy, had cooperated in the discount plan by giving price concessions.

Tour operators, airlines and hoteliers are worried about the trend towards booking as little as 10 days before departure.

Until last year, most summer holiday inclusive-tour bookings were made before the end of February.

Tour operators say they need more bookings to plan seat and room allocations and control cash flow. They are prepared to cut prices to get them.

Several last year sidestepped an Association of British Travel Agents' rule to prohibit price cutting, but the rule is expected to be dropped shortly.

Thomson Holidays has been offering discounts on some tours since last summer, but the British Airways scheme is the largest of its type and comes much earlier than any previous price-cutting offers.

World cruise: More than 1,200 people set sail from Southampton last night on an 86-day cruise round the world. It is the only sailing of its kind from Britain this winter. They paid between £1,187 and £7,171 for the cruise in the P & O flag-ship Canberra, which will take them to 21 ports in five continents.

Tangshan earthquake 'killed over 650,000'

Hongkong, Jan 5.—The South China Morning Post, quoting what it called a secret Chinese Communist Party document, said today that 655,237 people died in the earthquake which devastated the northern Chinese city of Tangshan last July.

No official death toll has been given for the earthquake which struck the coal-mining centre. But Chairman Hua Guofeng said last month that it caused death and destruction on a scale "rarely seen in history".

Western observers in Peking had earlier estimated the death toll at 100,000.

The newspaper quoted what it described as a classified document of the Etopel province party committee and revolutionary committee. It said the document was tabled at an emergency conference on relief work in the province last August.

The document quoted preliminary statistics showing that 655,237 people had died, 79,000 had been badly injured and 700,000 others had suffered lesser injuries, the newspaper said.

The earthquake, which occurred on July 28, virtually destroyed Tangshan, an industrial city with a population of 1,600,000 about 105 miles south-east of Peking. It also wreaked extensive damage in Tientsin, China's third largest city, with a population of 4,300,000.

The Chinese Government declined all offers of foreign aid.

The greatest recorded loss of life from an earthquake occurred in China more than 400 years ago, on January 23, 1556. An estimated 830,000 persons were killed then in Shensi province, in central China.

The next highest death toll in the historical records was 300,000 in Calcutta on October 11, 1737.—Reuter and AP.

Talks on pit retirement in difficulties

Talks on the miners' claim for early retirement have run into difficulties. Miners' leaders were told by the coal board that the Government would not provide money to allow pitmen to retire before the state retirement age. But the coal board made its improved offer which would allow retirement phased down to 60 by 1980 after 20 years' service underground, with a starting date when the incomes policy ended. There will be further talks today.

New safety check on lift system

The use of 73 so-called Paternoster lift installations in Britain that have not had new safety devices built into their systems by next September will be prohibited, the Health and Safety Executive said. Stringent checks are also to be made on the lifts every six months instead of once a year.

Loan repayment cuts Britain's reserves

Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currency fell by \$1,027m last month to \$4,125m. The fall was caused by the repayment of \$1,545m borrowed from nine industrial nations under the special stand-by agreed during the summer. There was some improvement in the underlying position, however, and the Bank of England was able to buy back some of the foreign currency it sold earlier in the year.

Soweto schools open

Black students in Soweto began going back to school after months of unrest in the Johannesburg township, raising hopes that the new term would bring a return to normality. Police kept their pledge to stay off the campuses.

Dearer car cover

General Accident, the largest United Kingdom motor insurer with more than one million policies, is to increase premiums on private cars by 12 per cent and on commercial vehicles by 14 per cent from February 1.

Economic block

Resolutions on the agenda for a conference of the National and Local Government Officers' Association reflect mounting opposition in the union movement to the Government's economic policies.

Two soldiers hurt in Belfast shooting

Two soldiers were seriously wounded in a gunfight in the republican Turf Lodge district of west Belfast. Two men, one wounded, were arrested. Earlier the Ulster Volunteer Force said it was ending its ceasefire, which it says it has observed for 12 months.

EEC gap widens

Mr George Thomson, the outgoing European Commissioner, regional policy, has criticised the EEC's farm policy for widening the gap between rich and poor areas.

THE BUSINESSMAN'S GUIDE TO THE LUNCHING WEEK.

MONDAY. The Roof Restaurant. 300 feet above London, the cuisine is, naturally, haute.

TUESDAY. St. George's Bar. A pub lunch like pub lunches used to be, by George.

WEDNESDAY. Scandinavian Sandwich Shop. Topless Danish sandwiches and a tasty hot dish.

THURSDAY. The Wellington. A meal fit for a Duke, without paying a King's ransom.

FRIDAY. Trader Vic's. International and Eastern exotica. Cocktails even more so.

SATURDAY. The London Tavern. Real English fare, for beef-eaters.

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Consolation for Mr Humphrey

Washington, Jan 5.—Mr Hubert Humphrey, the Democratic Party's elder statesman who was denied this week the job of Senate majority leader, was given an unprecedented consolation post by the party's seniors today.

They agreed to name him "deputy president pro tem" of the Senate, ranking just behind the longest serving Senator, Mr James Eastland. He will thus be a member of the congressional leadership group that advises the President.

HOME NEWS

Pay policy faces a crucial test at Nalco's conference

By Christopher Thomas

The TUC-Government pay restraint policy will face a crucial test next week when Britain's fourth biggest union considers demands for an end to the social contract.

The white-collar National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalco), which has 625,000 members, will discuss militant demands at a one-day conference in London on January 14.

Public sector unions such as Nalco are clearly reflecting mounting union discontent with the Government's economic strategy. The blue-collar National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) will hold a one-day strike in Wiltshire on January 18, which, because of backing by the National Union of Teachers, may cause some schools to close.

The executive of Nalco will propose a stiff resolution to the conference demanding alternative economic policies in line with the TUC approach. The resolution urges bans on overtime where there are no positive redundancy proposals, and encourages members to refuse to perform duties attached to vacant posts.

But 67 amendments to the resolution have been tabled by the branches, most of them demanding a tougher stand against the continued attack on public expenditure and living standards. Several make an outright call for withdrawal from the pay policy and the social contract, others demand a recalled Trades Union Congress.

The Tower Hamlets, London, branch says that by failing to introduce alternative economic policies, to reduce unemployment or to maintain the social wage, the Government has demonstrated its unwillingness to keep its side of the social contract. The TUC should be recalled and support for the social contract withdrawn, it says.

Six-point Tory plan for the economy

By Our Political Staff

Fresh legislation even on apparently desirable objectives such as wage participation in management, should be given low priority at a time when Britain needs to concentrate on the removal of obstacles to initiative and enterprise, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor, said at Leicester yesterday. He listed five other economic strategies.

1 The "cash-for-cash" of companies needed to be backed away, along with the complexities of the tax system. In that spirit the Conservative Party would publish proposals for simplifying the effect of VAT, particularly on small enterprises.

2 The balance of the tax system needed to be shifted from direct to indirect tax.

3 The existing work and unemployment had to be transformed, and the Conservatives were working out a tax-credit system.

4 Urgency must be given to encouraging smaller businesses and the self-employed. "Too much of today's activity by Government amounts to a programme for job-destruction in the independent sector, which is in no sense other than the make-work job-creation programme of the present Government."

5 All who earned must be given a personal interest in the growth and investment of profit and its subsequent exploitation. The time had come when the Government was "spreading ownership in enterprise and industry". The Conservatives would soon publish proposals for discussion with industry, unions and financial institutions. The aim was to spread ownership to millions of people in the way that state socialism never can.

Sir Geoffrey said that he was sure the British people were yearning for an opportunity to respond to a wealth-creating, job-creating programme of that kind. Everyone who was not a left-wing socialist should be the Conservative Party's friend and ally.

Labour MPs want Wales out of home-rule Bill

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

With a week to go before the Commons begins the committee stage of the devolution Bill, some Labour backbenchers are urging the Government to have second thoughts about including Wales and Scotland in one measure. They have said that the Government might face early defeat unless the issues are separated.

The Conservatives seem likely to get some support from disaffected Labour MPs from Wales and England when they move their amendment to delete Wales from the Bill, and the margin might be narrow. The vote on the amendment is expected to be close.

The Government is confident that it can beat off this first amendment. Early would-be supporters of the amendment are being asked to speak for themselves.

Mr Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, one of the Bill's opponents, said yesterday that there were many reasons why a government of any persuasion should recognize the big political difference between Wales and Scotland. To assuage clamour from Scotland it was not necessary to push on with proposals for Wales where the demand was weak.

"Next week the Government has the opportunity to get off the hook in Wales and proceed with the Scottish devolution," he said. He expects many who abstained on the second reading to vote for the amendment of Wales, knowing that a separate Bill for Wales is not ruled out if public demand warrants it.

Among 60 amendments published yesterday is one from Miss Harvie Anderson, Conservative MP for Renfrewshire, East. Mr Maurice Macmillan, Conservative MP for Farnham, and other anti-devolutionists are asking that the effect of the Act, defined in clause 1 as being to "make changes in the government of Scotland and Wales as parts of the United Kingdom", should be deleted.

In its place they want to insist that the Bill "shall make no changes in the government of the United Kingdom and shall not affect or be construed as affecting the supreme authority and competence of Parliament". They propose that the Bill's purpose shall be to "alter the local administration of Scotland and Wales only after a referendum or more has been conducted".

Other Conservatives led by Mr Gardiner, MP (Reigate), propose that no change should be made until after a national referendum in which one question would ask: "Do you want the changes in the government of the United Kingdom described in the Scotland and Wales Act to take effect?" A related amendment states that the Act would not have effect unless a majority in such a referendum voted for it.

Those Conservatives who want Parliament to continue as the supreme legislature, including Miss Harvie Anderson and

Mr Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, put forward a proviso that "no provision of this Act shall be used to alter the process whereby laws are made for the United Kingdom".

That is driven home in another amendment stating that the Scottish assembly "shall not meet on any day other than a Monday on which Parliament is sitting". The implication is that the assembly will be a branch of Parliament, to which Westminster MPs would be elected. Most Scottish MPs travel to Westminster on Monday evenings.

Another amendment seeks to provide that if Parliament at Westminster objects to a measure being considered in the Scottish assembly it shall have power to stop it.

About three hundred amendments have been tabled for the committee stage. Many number more are expected, and it seems almost certain that the Government will have to use the guillotine to get the Bill through in the time allotted.

Pit talks on early retirement hit snags

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Talks on the miners' early retirement claim ran into difficulties last night. Leaders of the National Union of Mine-workers were told that there was no government money to finance a scheme allowing pitmen to retire before state retirement age.

Miners' negotiators left the talks angry at the string of terms placed by the National Board on an improved scheme which would allow men to leave the industry. The dispute may yet go to the Prime Minister after union warnings that the Government is standing in the way of a deal.

The coal board yesterday put forward a compromise formula that would bring down the retirement age for colliers to 60 by 1980, provided those eligible had 20 years' underground service.

Initially, the scheme would be voluntary, but open to review after a year. The starting date would be "as soon as possible" but not earlier than the TUC-Government income policy.

The latter ruling is causing serious dispute among miners' negotiators. The full executive of the NUM meets this morning to discuss the offer. Talks with the coal board on the more ambitious claim for retirement at 60 now reducing to 55 by mid-1980.

The most surprising intervention in yesterday's talks was a statement made by Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the coal board, that the Government had ruled out a capital injection into the industry for the introduction of early retirement for miners. Sir Derek told the union: "I believe this is a Cabinet decision."

His statement provoked a strong response from the miners' negotiators, but their early feeling of dumbfoundness gave way to cynical amusement when the coal board finally produced its improved offer.

Mr Joseph Gormley, the miners' president, admitted that they had been taken by the Government's warning that no money was available to finance any part of an early retirement scheme. "But we do not take that as the last word," he said.

During yesterday's negotiations the NUM executive voted 14 to 11 for an early retirement scheme to become compulsory after an initial 12-month voluntary period. That flew in the face of the board's proposal that it should be voluntary for a year, and then subject to review.

In full, the coal board proposes that miners with 20 years' underground service should be allowed to retire if they wanted. The first opportunity would come for pitmen aged 63, and the objective was to reduce that figure to 60 by 1980.

Two soldiers injured in Belfast shooting

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

The Provisional IRA provided further evidence yesterday of its new year pledge to violence in Northern Ireland. During a gun battle in the republican Turf Lodge district of west Belfast, where anti-British feeling is highest, two soldiers were seriously wounded by IRA snipers. Already this year one soldier has been killed in an IRA ambush.

Yesterday's incident occurred during the afternoon and involved a joint mobile and foot patrol. After an exchange of shots soldiers arrested two men, one with a bullet wound in his hand. They recovered an Armalite rifle, an automatic pistol and a sporting rifle. By early last night three vehicles, including a bus, had been hijacked in the area.

Earlier it was disclosed that the Ulster Volunteer Force, the outlawed "loyalist" paramilitary group, had decided to drop the self-imposed ceasefire, which its members say they have kept for 12 months. It claimed responsibility for recent bombings in Belfast.

Since the foundation of the peace movement in August, the number of calls made by anonymous informants through the confidential telephone network has increased by a weekly average of 15 per cent.

The Government believes there is a direct link between the growth of the peace campaign and the willingness of ordinary citizens to provide information to the authorities. But use of the confidential tele-

phone can be affected by the nature of terrorist action and is always higher after attacks have resulted in death or injury to children.

It is understood that the increase in information has been divided almost equally between loyalist and republican communities.

It was also learnt yesterday that an important military reorganization is in progress throughout Northern Ireland to bring areas of army command into geographical line with the province's police districts.

The reorganization is being conducted under the personal direction of Sir David House, the GOC, and is regarded in government circles as a vital step towards restoring the primacy of the police over the Army on security.

As a result the cut of 500 in the number of British soldiers, announced before Christmas, has not been completed. Instead of pulling out complete units, as in the past, small numbers of men are being withdrawn from different areas. Body recovered: The body of a soldier missing after an army helicopter had crashed into a river near Portlaine, Co. Wick, was recovered yesterday (The Press Association reports). The soldier was Sergeant Michael Patrick Unsworth, aged 31, married with two children, from Winchester. He was serving with The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

Mr Paul Keating, aged 52, Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary in Dublin, is to replace Dr Donald O'Sullivan as the Irish Republic's Ambassador in London.

Mr Keating has served as ambassador in Nigeria and West Germany. Dr O'Sullivan is leaving at his own request.

US lost more working days than Britain

By Tim Jones

Labour Staff

Figures released today by the Department of Employment show that in the 10 years from 1966 the United States lost more days than Britain through industrial disputes for every 1,000 people employed.

Based on information supplied by the International Labour Office, the figures indicate that when American pundits refer to the "English sickness" the pot might be calling the kettle black. Officials will take pleasure from the figures, which bear out

the department's own findings last month that strike activity in manufacturing industry in Britain is not widespread.

The number of days lost through strikes in Britain dropped by 57 per cent in 1975, compared with the previous year. With 546 days lost for every 1,000 people employed, compared with 1,270 the previous year, it was Britain's best year since 1963.

The figure represented a 75 per cent improvement on 1972, when 2,160 days for every 1,000 people employed were lost. The 1972 total was the highest since 1926, the year of the general strike.

In the international league table Britain comes eleventh in the decade from 1966 to 1975, with an average of 775 days lost for every 1,000 working people. Switzerland, at the top of the table, lost an average of only one day for every 1,000 employees during the same period.

For the similar period, excluding 1975, for which no figures are available, the United States lost 1,337 days, Australia 1,036 days, Canada 1,049 days and Italy 1,766 days. The figure for Japan was 247 days.

1926, the year of the general strike.

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Unequal pay strike by journalists

By Our Labour Staff

The first strike in connexion with a claim under the controversial schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act begins today at a big London publishing house.

Members of the National Union of Journalists at Mercury House are taking action for conditions comparable to those in other magazine publishing houses in the London area. They want six months' minimum redundancy compensation; sick pay of 13 weeks' full pay and 13 weeks' half pay; a post-entury NUJ closed shop; and a commitment to job-grading with a view to establishing an acceptable salary structure and manning level.

The strike, which is official, was notified to the management 28 days ago. Mercury House publishes trade and technical magazines. Pickers will man the entrances to Mercury House today.

There is still confusion about schedule 11, and the Mercury House journalists are among the first to submit a claim to the Industrial Relations Commission and Arbitration Service (Acas).

The schedule, which the Confederation of British Industry has condemned for its inflationary implications, seeks to end payment of low pay by giving unions a right to claim equality in pay and conditions with similar workers in the same districts.

Mr Hugh O'Neill, managing director of Mercury House, said in a staff circular that the action was an irresponsible attitude "as it obviously jeopardizes all our livelihoods and prejudices our future."

He said he would not give a minority of staff benefits that it would be impossible to give everybody. If all the demands were met it would mean that a number of publications would cease to be viable.

"I cannot believe that the people concerned are naive enough not to realize the consequences of their actions. I wonder therefore if there are political reasons behind a strike of this nature," he said.

Attached to the circular is an unsigned paragraph about Trotsky and Lenin, which ends: "To stand on the traditions of Lenin and Trotsky can only mean supporting the dictatorship of the proletariat and the machinery of terror which it is required in every Marxist state ever established. Is that compatible with membership of a democratic party?"

Mr O'Neill said last night that some days ago he offered to refer the issue to Acas, but the union refused. He believed that the paragraph about Lenin and Trotsky had been quoted from an article in *The Daily Telegraph*.

Slater extradition court told of Haw Par deals

Continued from page 1

generous share scheme with Haw Par.

Mr Waterhouse said the case concerned Slater, Walker's trusteeship of Haw Par and its subsidiaries. "The conduct fell lamentably below the required standards," he said.

The application for extradition followed an investigation by English inspectors called by the Minister of Finance in Singapore. Mr Waterhouse said Singapore law in relation to company directors and their duties was based on English law, although in some instances it was in advance or clearer.

The law of other Commonwealth countries had been drawn upon, but basically Mr Waterhouse said: "What is wrong in Singapore is wrong in London, and what is wrong in London is wrong in Singapore."

Mr Waterhouse said the charges covered three aspects of the conduct of Haw Par. They were: the history of Spydar Securities; the formation and conduct of Melbourne Unit Trust along with its impact on the accounts of Haw Par; and an offer made by Haw Par to acquire the remaining issued share units of a company called Motor and General Underwriters Investment Holdings Ltd.

Dealing with Spydar Securities, Mr Waterhouse said that early in 1972 Haw Par bought seven million shares in a company called Kwan Loong and Co (Hongkong) Ltd. The price was 120 Hongkong dollars a share and Mr Waterhouse said: "It is important to stress that the total amount of over eight million dollars for the shares was to be satisfied by the issue of one million new shares in Haw Par."

The purchase took place in February, 1972, and the next month a subsidiary of Haw Par called Haw Par Brothers (Hongkong) Ltd bought 6,230,000 shares in King Fung Development Co Ltd at a cost of 2.55 Hongkong dollars a share.

After those two purchases 10 per cent of each amount bought was siphoned off at the buying prices. In June, 1972, Spydar Securities received more than 1,300,000 shares. Mr Waterhouse pointed out that by that time the entire holding in King

Slater, who was a director of the company, had been sold to the Kwan Loong and Co. The Kwan Loong and Co. was a subsidiary of Haw Par. The Kwan Loong and Co. was a subsidiary of Haw Par. The Kwan Loong and Co. was a subsidiary of Haw Par.

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Air-raid film 'clears Churchill'

By Robert Parker

A disclosure in a programme on the television last night by Professor R. V. Jones, a wartime scientific intelligence adviser to Winston Churchill, that attempts were made to jam the radio beams that guided the Luftwaffe to Coventry on November 14, 1940, has been welcomed as evidence that Churchill did not knowingly allow the city to be bombed without taking defensive action.

But Mr Anthony Cave Brown, who suggested in a recent book, *Bombing of Lies*, that Churchill knew about the plans to bomb Coventry, said in the United States yesterday that he was not retracting. He said that Churchill made the agonizing decision to sacrifice Coventry to save the top secret code had been broken by British intelligence.

Sir David Hunt, who was a chief intelligence officer later in the war, and later still private secretary to Churchill, said yesterday that Professor Jones's disclosure "refutes out of any question the taking of an unguided decision by Churchill."

Sir John Martin, private secretary to Churchill at the time and from 1941 his principal private secretary, said that Professor Jones's remarks, which were reported in *The Times* yesterday, helped to show that the allegations were not true.

Professor Jones's account is contained in a Yorkshire Television film shown on the independent television network last night. He said that because British intelligence had deciphered the so-called Enigma code Churchill was aware four days before the raid that the Luftwaffe, on England was being planned.

The target was not known until 5.30 pm on the day of the raid. Attempts to jam the radio beams failed because of incorrect measurements of frequencies given to him.

Mr Brown declares that the Chief Constable of Coventry at the time, who was responsible for the defence of the city, was never warned of the attack.

The raid killed 554 people, and seriously injured 365.

The other British players all did well and finished the round without conceding defeat in any of their games.

The attraction of the day was undoubtedly the meeting of two Russians and it turned out to be anything but the conventional draw that many onlookers might have expected. Stepanov was guilty of slight inaccuracies in the opening which Romanishin exploited ruthlessly to expose the king and force the former

British players do well at Hastings

From Harry Golombek

Hastings

Most of the games in the seventh round of the Ladbroke grandmaster chess tournament at Hastings yesterday were hard-fought, without many draw-fishes. After speedy draws between Andrian and Farago and Kamen and Kaplan, Tony Miles was unable to make much impression on the American grandmaster, Tarjan. He had to agree a draw in a level ending after 27 moves.

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Pop singer's staff fined on drug charges

Four members of the entourage of Rod Stewart, the pop singer, were fined at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday when they admitted possessing cannabis. Eight others were remanded on bail to appear for trial in June.

The 12, who included road managers, sound engineers and technicians, were arrested in a police raid at the Albany Hotel, Glasgow, on Tuesday.

After the hearing yesterday it was stated that Mr Stewart was not in the Albany at the time of the arrests, as had been reported, but was staying at the Turnberry Hotel, near Ayr.

Robin Le Mesurier, a road manager of Eardley Crescent, West Brompton, London, was fined £75. Alan James, aged 26, of Ferme Park Road, Haringey, London, John Desling, aged 33, of no fixed address, and Henry Kavanagh, of Belfast, Co. Down, Manchester, were each fined £50. The fines

The Railfreight logo, featuring a stylized black arrow pointing right with three horizontal lines extending from its tail, enclosed in a black square. To its right, the word "Railfreight" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, also enclosed in a black square.

WEST EUROPE

Spanish reforms keep up momentum of drive to democracy

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Jan 5

It was King Juan Carlos's thirty-ninth birthday today and Spaniards had a few things to celebrate: a decree excluding conscientious objectors from military service; the temporary avoidance of a collapse in negotiations between the Government and Basque separatist groups; and a more liberal draft of a law to legalize trade unions.

The text of the conscientious objection decree, published today, says that objectors may serve in "posts of civic interest" rather than in the armed forces, but this service will last for three years compared to the average conscript's service of one year to 18 months.

Leaders of the principal opposition parties avoided statements with the Government by designating a spokesman for the group with no Communist member to begin negotiations with Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, on the preparation of the country's move towards democracy.

There had been some concern that the opposition might insist on having a Communist member on the team the Government would refuse to meet.

The opposition party leaders did not actually renounce their demand for legalization of all political parties, including the Communist Party; they simply shifted off the eventual showdown.

Paris talks on Giscard visit to Saudi Arabia

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Jan 5

President Giscard d'Estaing today met Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, to discuss his state visit to the Kingdom later this month. The King's personal message from King Khalid, underlining the mutual importance placed on the visit by the two heads of state.

Cooperation in tackling the West's economic problems will obviously dominate the President's talks in Riyadh. However, the agenda includes other items, among them a possible nuclear deal, technical assistance, sale of sophisticated weaponry and economic agreements.

The four-day visit will be the first to Saudi Arabia by the French President. The economic windfalls that result from such visits assure them a special character. However, there is no doubt that this one is of particular importance to President Giscard d'Estaing.

He has done much to foster the North-South dialogue between raw material producing and industrialized countries, and is throwing his weight behind efforts to make 1977 the year in which a determined attempt is made to solve the Middle East crisis.

Furthermore, there is evidence that the two heads of state are anxious to develop their cooperation far beyond what had been envisaged to

over the issue by the tactical manoeuvre. They have given their team the specific task of negotiating on only two issues: a broader amnesty and recognition for all political parties.

Although a head-on collision has thus been avoided, it could come later. Opposition leaders told reporters last night that a second team—possibly including a Communist—will be chosen to handle the next round of talks with the Prime Minister and discuss the democratic guarantees needed for holding elections.

Police freed an unspecified number of people in the Basque city of San Sebastian who had been taken into custody during the past few days in connection with demonstrations in favour of a broader amnesty. They were released just in time to take part in traditional family festivities winding up the Christmas season, including the exchange of gifts as exchanged in Spain.

The independent Madrid daily *El País* reported today that a parliamentary committee, which is studying government proposals to legislate trade unions, has modified the Government's proposal, making the text more liberal. The proposed law is to be presented in the near future to a plenary session of the Cortes for approval. The first draft of the proposed law merely referred to "associations" of workers; the latest version uses the term "organizations". The new version also makes it a less onerous procedure to gain legal recognition for a trade union.

data. As much, was recently made clear by Shaikh and Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, when he stated in an interview much publicized in France. That his Government favoured the proposed 40-minute meeting with the President, Prince Saud said that the "modalities" of the visit were discussed and that the King's message concerned this. Although it has not been announced, an advance party of high-level French officials is expected to leave soon for Saudi Arabia to prepare the President's arrival on January 22.

What has not gone unnoticed here is the presence in Cairo of M Yvon Bourges, the French Defence Minister, who is discussing French participation in the proposed Arab arms industry with Egyptian officials.

This new industry, which would be based in Egypt, is to be financed largely by Saudi Arabia and the expectation is that something tangible will emerge in time for President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Riyadh.

Another indication of the wider nature of the proposed new French-Saudi cooperation is the project to rebuild the water-damaged port of Beirut. Saudi Arabia is anxious that this should go ahead and has all but promised the necessary finance, with the French undertaking the construction.

Berlin to wind up fund for airlift victims

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Jan 5

The West Berlin Senate has decided to wind up the Luftbrücke fund, which aids the dependants of allied servicemen and a few Germans who lost their lives in the Berlin airlift.

In 1959, on the tenth anniversary of the end of the airlift, Berliners donated DM15m as an expression of their gratitude to those who helped them to survive the Russian blockade.

The fund was increasingly used to help the education of the children of American, British and French servicemen killed in airlift accidents.

With the number of those entitled to benefit from the fund decreasing rapidly, the Senate decided yesterday to use up both the capital and interest of the fund by extending its benefits to a wider section of the population of America, Britain and France.

Socialists attack mayor over meetings with Pope

From Our Correspondent Rome, Jan 5

The new Marxist mayor of Rome, Professor Giulio Carlo Argan, is under attack from the Socialists and other left-wing lay parties for overdoing things, as they see it, in his efforts to establish good relations with the Pope.

Professor Argan, with other representatives of Rome's first Communist-dominated city council, has met the Pope three times in the past month, a record unbeaten by his Catholic predecessor. Two occasions were religious ceremonies in the city, the third was Monday's audience of the Pope in the Vatican.

"You can have too much of a good thing," commented the Socialist party spokesman, Signor Fabrizio Cicciocioppo. He added that the need for civilized relations between the left-wing city council and the Vatican "does not mean there should be an attitude of subordination nor that the mayor should follow the Pope to every square and church he chooses to go into."

Greece replaces head of EEC negotiations team

From Our Correspondent Athens, Jan 5

The Greek Government today replaced Mr Nicos Kyriazidis as chief negotiator with the EEC after disagreements involving the conditions for Greece's full membership of the Community.

He is succeeded by Mr Vyrion Theodoropoulos, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry and former Ambassador to the Community.

The negotiations for Greek membership, which began in earnest in Brussels last month, are highlighting the practical difficulties of accession.

Announcing the changes, Mr Theodoropoulos, Minister of Coordination and Planning, who is responsible for the negotiations, said the Government was "determined to negotiate with tenacity in order to safeguard the economic interests of the country and particularly of Greek exporters and farmers."

The person most upset by the meetings was the Socialist deputy mayor of Rome, Signor Alberto Benozzi, who stayed away from the papal audience in protest. He said later that he regarded meetings as useless for solving the city's problems. He claimed many of these problems had been created by large-scale building speculation by religious organizations which own a large proportion of the property in Rome. "One might expect a minimum of self-criticism from the church on the subject," he said.

The deputy mayor's objections were supported by a Republican spokesman, the extreme left-wing Proletarian Democracy Party and by the Radicalists who have consistently accused the Communists of "bootlicking" the church. The Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* today deplored an article in the Italian weekly, *L'Europeo*, giving a long list of what it claimed was Vatican property in Rome, held through various organizations. The magazine said the church owned about one-quarter of the city.

OVERSEAS

Mr Carter's business likely to stay in family

From Fred Emery Washington, Jan 5

Mr Jimmy Carter's peanut business is likely to stay in the family, in spite of his decision to place his majority share in the hands of a trustee who has authority to sell it or lease it for the period of his presidency.

The arrangements announced yesterday, which provide for Mr Carter to receive cash income from his holdings while in office and to reclaim most of them afterwards, have been widely welcomed as going beyond existing legal requirements.

The multimillion dollar peanut broking firm known as Carter's Warehouse is likely to continue under the management of Mr Billy Carter, the President-elect's younger brother.

He has let it be known he has "first option" under the arrangements. Since he has said he cannot afford to buy out his brother's large holding, it is assumed the business will be leased back to him.

It is thought that the trustee might be Mr Charles Kirby, the Atlanta lawyer and a longstanding close adviser of Mr Carter, who is not taking a formal government post.

Congressmen who keep their finances private would be agast at having to fulfil what is to be required of all senior political appointees after Mr Carter's inauguration on January 20.

They must make available for public inspection "a complete current net worth statement" detailing all their assets and liabilities and those of their wives, minor children and other members of their immediate households. The statement must also detail sources of current wealth. Similar statements will be made public during an appointee's time in office, and in the two years after departure from government.

These "ethics" guidelines require that any "severance" including merit awards given to appointees as they depart from their firms to take up office will be scrutinized.

Any "preexisting established plan" for reward can be followed, but anything beyond six months' salary or above \$50,000 (£30,000) to \$75,000 "would need careful examination."

The requirements are expected to cause difficulties for a number of the wealthy businessmen Mr Carter has appointed. Some of them have lifetime contracts with big firms, which will have to be waived.

This is especially clear in the requirement for full public financial disclosure by the 2,000 senior appointees to government, who must also pledge to serve a full term, and not, for one year after leaving government, to make even an informal contact for remuneration with any employee of the government department or agency they served.

This rules out the "sweetheart" arrangements under which departing government officials have been promptly employed to lobby the department they had just left.

Officials must also pledge that for two years after leaving government, they will make no paid contact with a member of the executive branch regarding a specified business matter.

Nerve illness 'followed 1973 farm contamination'

Continued from page 1

amounts of PBB left in Michigan's food supply.

Dr Sellkoff's team examined 1,029 people in Grand Rapids over a six-day period in November. Of the group, 638 were selected at random both from families on farms quarantined because of PBB poisoning and on farms that had not been quarantined, and from families who purchased food from such farms.

The rest of the group included people whose doctors had sent them, those who asked to be examined and employees of the Michigan Chemical Co, where PBB was made.

The most common effect found involved disturbances of the nervous system, including memory loss, muscular weakness, coordination difficulties, headache and sleep disorders.

In some cases, the difficulties were so disabling that those affected were unable to continue working.

Of the 638 randomly selected subjects, 37 per cent had neurological symptoms. In addition, 27 per cent were found to have suffered from painful or swollen joints.

A neurologist in the New York team said many of those examined appeared neurologically like elderly people, but were in fact in their 30s.

Skin disorders were found in 21 per cent of the randomly selected farm residents and consumers, and 16 per cent complained of gastro-intestinal difficulties such as abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

Altogether, almost a third of this group reported that their health had deteriorated since the contaminated feed was distributed by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Dr Sellkoff said the prevalence of ill health in the Michigan group was higher than that found in other groups his team had examined, including workers exposed to vinyl chloride and lead. The team also found a sugges-



Representative Max Baucus (Democrat, Montana) bottle-feeding his baby at the formal opening of Congress on Tuesday. Wives and families were invited to attend and thousands thronged the Capitol.

Mr Murdoch's peace approach is rejected

From Peter Strafford New York, Jan 5

Mr Clay Felker, president of the New York Magazine Company, today rejected an approach from Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, aimed at reaching an amicable settlement of Mr Murdoch's takeover bid.

Mr Felker claims the arrangement would mean giving him the right of first refusal if Mr Burden wanted to sell out.

Mr Felker has been backed by his staff because they are apprehensive about Mr Murdoch's reputation as a newspaper publisher. Some of them are also concerned about the company being taken over by a foreigner.

Greek Foreign Minister on visit to Belgrade

From Our Correspondent Athens, Jan 5

Mr Demetrios Bissios, the Greek Foreign Minister, left for Belgrade today on an official visit. Greece and Yugoslavia have felt the need to reinforce their links because of increasing fears of a Soviet intervention in Yugoslavia "after Tito".

Cooperation consists of exchanges on matters of military contingency, but it remains discreet and restrained in line with Yugoslavia's determination to stay non-aligned.

The Greek leader would like to see Yugoslavia integrated in a regional defence pact, but they admit now that this is not feasible.

Washington will dance in the new President

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Jan 5

Hundreds of free events will take place in Washington during Mr Carter's inauguration week. They include what is being called the "world's biggest square dance" on January 21—the day after the actual inauguration—to which the first 10,000 who pick up tickets will be admitted.

A similar number will also be admitted for folk dancing on January 18.

Inauguration day will open with a service at the Lincoln Memorial with Metropolitan Opera singers, several choirs, and the Rev Martin Luther King, Sr., father of the murdered civil rights leader, officiating.

Botswana sympathetic to Rhodesia proposals

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Jan 5

Mr Ivor Richard, chairman of the Rhodesian settlement talks, was today given the clearest indication of support so far received during his southern African tour for a "neutral" British presence in an interim Rhodesian Government.

After a two-hour meeting with Sir Seretse Khama, in Gaborone this morning, Mr Richard said the Botswana President considered the British proposal an idea worth pursuing. Sir Seretse, he said, had been a sympathetic and helpful listener when various British proposals to bring about a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia were put to him.

Sir Seretse is expected to discuss the question of a proposed British presence in an interim Rhodesian Government with the Presidents of Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia when they meet in Lusaka this weekend. As the most "moderate" of the four front-line presidents with whom Mr Richard is holding talks, he is likely to be the most sympathetic towards the British plan.

A more daunting task faces Mr Richard tomorrow when he begins his talks in Mozambique, which supports the most militant elements among the black nationalists. It provides a base for guerrilla operations against Rhodesia and has expressed suspicion about alleged British "neo-colonialist" intentions in Rhodesia.

As a forerunner of the sort of military which will confront Mr Richard in Maputo, Mozambique Radio has broadcast five demands made by the Zimbabwe People's Army (Ziwa).

These were that Britain should stop treating Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, as a respectable

politician; it should stop manoeuvring to set up a puppet government in Salisbury; halt the supply of British mercenaries and arms to the Smith regime; prevent the British media from publishing lies and slanders against the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Ziba; and end the charade of presenting Britain's latest settlement proposals as moves to establish peace in Rhodesia, when the opposite was true.

It is unclear at this stage whether Mr Richard, in addition to meeting President Machel and other Mozambican leaders, will have talks with Mr Robert Mugabe, one of the joint leaders of the Patriotic Front and representative at the Geneva talks for some of the Rhodesian guerrillas. So far Bishop Abel Muzorewa has been the only nationalist leader Mr Richard has seen during his present tour.

Addis Ababa, Jan 5. — A senior official of the Patriotic Front said today that it wanted an intensification of the armed struggle in Rhodesia to bring Mr Ian Smith's Government to reason.

Mr Joseph Msika, general secretary of Mr Joshua Nkomo's faction of the African National Council, said, however, that a negotiated settlement of the dispute would be welcome.

Mr Msika, here for a meeting with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) officials yesterday, told Reuters he would be surprised if the Geneva conference on Rhodesia resumed as planned on January 17, though it might resume later.

He said he could see few results coming out of the present visit to southern Africa by Mr Richard, because the British and Americans were trying to involve the nationalists in proposals which they had no part in forming.

Salisbury bus boycott

From Our Own Correspondent Salisbury, Jan 5

Thousands of black commuters continued to boycott Salisbury's buses today in protest at the dismissal of about 800 drivers and conductors all of whom had spent Christmas in prison.

The bus company employees lost their jobs for refusing to end a strike begun on Christmas Eve over the size of a Christmas bonus. Within hours of the strike starting, police arrested them.

After spending six days in jail, at one stage packed 50 to a room, the men were released on payment of a fine of 30 Rhodesian dollars (£30) but those who still refused to work—the majority—were dismissed.

A recruiting drive for new conductors and drivers was mounted and a limited service began yesterday. Most buses remained empty, however, commuters relying on lifts or private taxi services. It was the same today.

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OVERSEAS

Hopes rise for end to unrest as Soweto pupils drift back to school

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 5
It was a most unusual beginning to a school term for South Africa's black pupils. At 8 am, the time when classes were supposed to begin, Soweto's Orlando high school was empty. The principal, Mr Wilkie Kambule, totally deserted.

"I think the students will start arriving later in the morning," said Mr Kambule, his customary optimism apparently unaffected by a short, sharp spell in police detention last week. "But they got into the school during the morning. In Soweto, the police stayed away from the school. Yesterday the township's police chief, Brigadier Jan Visser, gave an assurance that the police would not interfere when the schools returned today. However, they were clearly taking no chances and the occasional patrol car could be seen moving discreetly round the streets while outside Mr Morris Isaacson, a black plainclothes man loitered against a telephone post as he kept the school under observation."

Today's reopening of schools in South Africa's black townships follows months of enforced closure caused by last year's riots. The term has started earlier than usual in order to allow pupils to prepare for last year's examinations, which were boycotted in protest over the number of deaths in the riots and the detention of hundreds of students by the police.

The beginning of the term is being watched closely by the South African authorities. They believe that a significant turning point during the next few days could herald a return to normality.

Rabin eulogy fails to head off calls for Ofer inquiry

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, Jan 5
As Mr Abraham Ofer, the Minister of Housing, was buried with state honours here this afternoon, a political argument developed over whether an investigation into alleged embezzlement involving a building company he once headed should be pursued.

Before shooting himself on a beach here on Monday Mr Ofer left a note saying he was completely innocent but was driven to despair by slanderous accusations. Political associates said he was broken after a meeting on Sunday with Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, who did not give him the backing hoped for.

But, speaking over the air on Monday, Mr Rabin said his last words on Sunday morning to Mr Ofer were "Abraham, I, Yitzhak Rabin, believe you are innocent."

Mr Rabin quoted protestations of innocence from the suicide note and said that these sincere words "in the moment of supreme reckoning" challenged those he held responsible for slandering him. The tragedy underlined the need for

In brief

Moscow adjusts many prices

Moscow, Jan 5.—The Soviet Government has announced price adjustments to a wide range of goods and services.

The state prices committee announced that 10 items would cost from 5 to 25 per cent less from today, including stockings, women's shoes, refrigerators, record players, radios and some television sets. Among the items subjected to price increases will be rugs, crystal, some books, air tickets and taxi fares. The cost of basic goods will not change.

Strikes crumble

Columbo, Jan 5.—Postal and telegraph workers and busmen in Sri Lanka called off threatened strikes after the Government issued orders under which all workers would have lost their jobs.

Delhi jail protest

Delhi, Jan 5.—Miss Marie Andrele Leclerc, aged 31, a Canadian in jail here since July who is due to face charges alleging implication in the murder of several foreign tourists, has gone on hunger strike to protest about prison conditions.

Beating the jams

Lagos, Jan 5.—The Nigerian Government will ban half the capital's cars from main roads in an effort to prevent traffic jams during the coming Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture.

Ethiopia-Sudan tension

Addis Ababa, Jan 5.—Ethiopian and Sudanese officials have recalled their ambassadors from each other's capitals for consultations on strained relations between the two countries, informed sources said.

Family split

Brisbane, Jan 5.—William Renton, a convicted murderer, has asked if he can serve his life sentence in a different jail from his son, Bruce, who is also a convicted murderer.

1,200 election arrests

Tokyo, Jan 5.—More than 1,200 people, most of them accused of being involved in the recent election in Japan, have been arrested in connection with last month's general election.

Civil rights leader questioned in Moscow

Moscow, Jan 5.—The leader of a dissident group set up to monitor Soviet observance of the Helsinki agreement was seized on the street by plainclothes police today and questioned for seven hours before being released.

Dr Yuri Orlov was bundled into a car as he was on his way to a press conference in a private flat where he planned to call Western journalists about his arrest yesterday of his apartment and those of four other dissidents.

After his interrogation at the public prosecutor's office, Mr Orlov telephoned correspondents to say investigators had told him a criminal case had been started as a result of documents found in the searches.

The charge was one of spreading deliberate fabrications slandering the Soviet system. The fabrications were alleged to be contained in several hundred documents on the work of the dissident group, a group which police confiscated.

He said that investigators had not specified who the accused were, but told him he was a witness in the case.

Dr Orlov, who formerly worked as a physicist, had to defy a summons to report for questioning at the prosecutor's office. He said he had been told to return to the office tomorrow.

He said he had responded to all questions, which concerned documents and other items found in his flat, by specifying how in his view each question violated the letter of Helsinki.

—Reuters.

Russia announces record grain harvest for 1976

Moscow, Jan 5.—The Soviet Union had a record grain harvest of 223,800,000 tonnes for 1976, Mr Valentin Mesyats, the Agriculture Minister, said here today. This was 1,300,000 tonnes higher than the previous record in 1973.

The bumper harvest compares with a crop of 140 million tonnes in 1975, the worst result for a decade, which led to food shortages throughout the country.

Asked about grain imports, Mr Mesyats said Moscow would adhere to its agreement to buy between six and eight million tonnes of American grain annually between 1976 and 1980.

Mr Mesyats also announced that the total grain crop for 1976 totalled 85 million tonnes, and the cotton crop 8,300,000 tonnes. Seed production was below the target of 88 million tonnes and more than two million tonnes short of the 1973 record. But the cotton crop was higher than the target and only about 100,000 tonnes below the 1974 record.

—Reuters.

Pakistan ban on eight opposition MPs

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, Jan 5
Eight opposition politicians in Pakistan, including Mr Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the opposition, will be barred from Parliament under an amendment to the political parties Act.

The government measure provides for the disqualification of any member of the Senate and the central and provincial assemblies if that person was holding a party office at the time their organisation was banned by court.

Mr Abdul Wali Khan's National Awami Party was banned in 1975 by the Government for acting against the State.

Mr Bhutto, the Pakistan Prime Minister, announced tonight that in future income derived from agricultural lands will be subject to income tax. But small landowners with 25 acres or less will be exempted.

Hitler seen as 'Joan of Arc'

Ottawa, Jan 5.—William Mackenzie King, the wartime Canadian Prime Minister, wrote in his diary during a 1938 visit to Germany that Hitler would rank with Joan of Arc "as a deliverer of his people". But by 1946 he saw Hitler as a "Frankenstein's monster".

These remarks, written and released by the public archives, also show how suspicious of President Roosevelt and fearing that American officials were too deeply influenced by Jews.

—AP.

Tribesmen swell Polisario ranks

From Paul Martin
Tindout, Algerian Sahara
Jan 5
Hidden in the red sand wilderness that rolls from here to three shifting desert battlefronts, some 3,000 Saharan tribesmen are undergoing training in guerrilla warfare.

They will soon swell the ranks of Polisario—the desert guerrillas fighting Morocco and Mauritania—for a vital campaign in their struggle to reverse the carve-up of the former Spanish territory.

The military operations around the Polisario bases that dot this south-western corner of the Algerian Sahara came after the Sudanese and Sudanese guerrilla army. King Hassan's refurbished armed forces have been on the offensive in the most determined attempt so far to secure the vast areas of the Sahara acquired by Morocco and Mauritania a year ago.

The task set the 30,000 troops committed by Morocco and the smaller Mauritania force was to destroy the hidden desert enemy and secure the map-line frontiers. However, with the guerrilla bands navigating the hinterland by desert tracks, land features or the stars, are still able to strike—sometimes deeply—behind the lines of the army.

While neighbouring Algeria remains Polisario's protector, allowing the guerrillas to launch

Diary secrets raised at singer's trial

Aspen, Colorado, Jan 5.—The 225-page diary of the French singer Claudine Longet, found in the house where her ski champion lover was shot dead, was referred to by prospective woman juror at Miss Longet's trial on a charge of manslaughter today.

The diary, found in Mr Vladimir Sabich's bedroom, has been ruled out as evidence because it was obtained with an illegal search warrant.

But Mrs Ellen Grenko, called for jury service, said she would not be able to help wondering what was in the diary. "That bothers me terribly," she said. Judge George Lohr excused her from serving on the jury.

Miss Longet, aged 35, former wife of Andy Williams, the singer, is charged with the reckless but unintentional shooting of Mr Sabich at the house they shared in this Colorado mountain resort last March.

The first three prospective jurors were excused today because they said they had already made up their minds about Miss Longet's guilt or innocence.

—Reuters.

Fugitive journalist

Gaborone, Jan 5.—Mr Eric Abraham, aged 22, a South African journalist who was arrested in his second home, was placed under house arrest in Cape Town last November, arrived here after escaping across the Botswana border. He said he wanted to come to Britain.

Motor racing

The increasing problem of spectator safety in rallying has prompted Ford of Britain to make two special safety features available to organisers of national championship events. The cars, equipped with loudspeakers linked to a central control unit, will be used to broadcast information about the rally to spectators where to stand in safety, well back from the competitors.

The first announced plans of a positive safety strategy, a repeat of the accident, involving spectators, which marked the RAC Rally in November, will be handed out to spectators and will give basic first aid information in case a rally car should crash nearby.

Peter Ashcroft, the Ford team manager, commented: "We know these special controls will not be a complete solution to the problem, but we hope they go some way towards it."

SPORT

Cricket

England on the verge of victory as India's plan badly misfires

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Calcutta, Jan 5
England made sure of winning the second Test match here today as sure as can be anywhere. After gaining a first innings lead of 166, they took seven wickets in the second innings for 145 runs. To avoid their fourth consecutive defeat by an innings at Visakhapatnam, India's last three wickets need to muster another 21 runs tomorrow.

Not surprisingly there were times today when they looked a demoralised side. Gavaskar and Sharma fought for a while; there were a few runs but Gavaskar and Sharma had been out for two hours and three-quarters. In the last 50 minutes he and Prasanna added 48 runs in a way that made a nonsense of what had gone before. But that was the extent of it. The pitch was neither worse nor better than in England's innings of 321. The ball turned, the odd one lifted steeply; the batsmen were slow enough as Gavaskar and Prasanna showed, and then Patel, to be playfully with an even share of the luck.

Had two of them dug themselves in India might have gone on to make enough runs to level the match. Rather than that, five wickets fell in an hour this afternoon, two to Greig, who to Willis and one to Underwood. Thereafter it was a matter only of whether England would win today, India's first day in the first day, when the pitch was still intact. Had they batted decently then it would have been another match they have been hoist instead with their own petard. England have bowled and batted better on a pitch which India prepared for them.

India began their second innings 35 minutes before lunch. To start with the breaks were India's. The ball kept flashing just out of reach of the batsmen. The first three, when in the last over of the morning, which was Greig's first, Gavaskar went down the wicket and drove him to mid-off. Amis dropped the simple catch—Amis from the press back that is, it was not against the background of lightning bolts and thunder. For four days the ground has been completely flat, with 70,000 people seated in the sun.

The collapse set in half-an-hour into the afternoon when Gavaskar, pushing out at Greig, was given out, caught at short leg off bat and pad. If the look which Gavaskar gave Brearley, fielding at silly point, meant what I thought it did, Gavaskar may have been unhappy. In the next over Gavaskar played on, off the bottom of the bat, to Underwood, the ball hardly leaving the ground. This was the first ball of Underwood's sixth over and he had yet to concede a run. In Greig's next over but one off his toes but straight to mid-off where Lever held a good low catch, nursing a backward somersault as he did so.

Sharma looked capable of survival until he was caught at a wicket fence, a short ball driven twice for four. Sharma's may be one of the heads to fall when the Indian selectors announce their side for the third Test match starting in Madras at the end of next week. There is a sense of the Indian selectors' surprise that the Indian side, such as it is, has come on to allow Underwood to change ends—the only break Underwood had between the penultimate over of the morning and the last of the day. With things going so well, Greig gave himself only one spell for 10 overs, to save his spinning finger for another day. Enough of a breeze had blown up by the time Sharma was out for six of the England side to be in short-sleeved sweaters. In the outfield Barlow was being given more of a chance than Randall to show his pace. He was in brilliant form. Knott's diving leg-side catch, which dismissed Solkar in the third over of this spell, Willis, was brilliant too. By now India were 70 for five with disenchantment in the crowd.

Madan Lal stayed for almost an hour with Patel. Brearley, who has the liking for first slip at the moment when the faster men are bowling, eventually caught him. In the same over Old produced one that was altogether too good for Kirmann, as it might have been for a much better player. Prasanna then batted like a man who, having bowled 57.4 overs, knew that wickets were not as easy as all this to come by or the drive so impossibly difficult. With Patel playing more strokes in the closing overs, with more certainty than anyone else in the match, India lived until tomorrow. By then, who knows, the chances of rain are entirely discounted.

England's first innings had lasted for another 75 minutes this morning. Of their last four



Sharma caught by Knott: Willis, the bowler, and Brearley (slip) react jubilantly.

Lillee too much for Pakistanis

Melbourne, Jan 5.—Pakistan's batsmen, losing six wickets for 42 runs in an exciting period near the end of the first innings, were handed the second Test match to Australia here today. With only themselves to blame for their collapse, Pakistan played poor shots to accurate but not hostile Australian bowling. Pakistan finished the day with 128 runs and one wicket in hand, seeking a total of 500 for victory. The match ends today.

Every Australian bowler used to take one wicketing hit. Lillee who sparked off the rout of Pakistan after tea, taking three wickets for 10 runs in five overs, to bring his tally for the match so far to nine wickets. The first Test of the three-match series was decided by four wickets.

Australia resumed their second innings this morning at 122 for one. McCosker, who went on to complete his third Test century, and Ian Davis, who scored 67 runs, were the mainstays of the runs until Davis (88) gave a simple catch to Asif Iqbal. Chappell hit his fourth successive half-century against Pakistan, before being caught off the persistent Asif Iqbal, with five for 122 and John Garner for 119, had shared the wickets between them when Australia declared at 315 for eight.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 517 for 8 wickets (41.5 overs)

A. C. Davidson	100
I. D. Davis	67
M. J. G. McCosker	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100

PAKISTAN: First Innings 353 (50.0 overs)

S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100

Control units to increase spectator safety

The increasing problem of spectator safety in rallying has prompted Ford of Britain to make two special safety features available to organisers of national championship events. The cars, equipped with loudspeakers linked to a central control unit, will be used to broadcast information about the rally to spectators where to stand in safety, well back from the competitors.

Hunt turns up in bare feet at plush hotel

Buenos Aires, Jan 5.—James Hunt, Britain's world motor racing champion, won a reputation as a playboy when he was the Argentine Grand Prix when he showed up barefooted at a news conference in a plush local hotel. The Argentine capital considers itself a formal city, and Hunt's act drew strong criticism in the press.

Twenty-two drivers have entered the race, the first in the 1977 championship series. The field will include at least five relative newcomers to Formula One. Several well-known drivers will be missing, including Jackie Fitt, Jean-Pierre Jarier, Rolf Stommelen and Hans Stuck.

Hunt, driving a McLaren, is the favourite to win the 200-mile race on a 5.5-mile track at the San Martin Municipal Autodromo. The former world champion, Niki Lauda, of Austria, in a Ferrari,

Rosewall is finding five sets too tough

Melbourne, Jan 5.—The four leading seeds needed the advance into the quarter-finals round of the Australian open tennis championships at Kooyung today with the No. 4, the veteran Ken Rosewall, needing the longest. Rosewall, aged 42, the sentimental favourite here, needed close to four hours to beat Martin Riesen, of the United States, by 6-4, 7-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

He said he thought it was the first five-set match he had played since Wimbledon in 1974. "I'm finding it tough," he said. "I was very lucky to get into the match, and I think Marty should be the one here doing the talking. Rosewall's next opponent will be the defending champion, Mark Edmondson, who beat him a year ago. Today Edmondson showed that he is pulling his game together in good time as he dispatched the tall, powerful Englishman, Richard Lewis, by 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Lewis, aged 22, from Middlesex, scored the best win of his career yesterday when he accounted for the tough seed Tom Gorman, of the United States, by 6-4, 6-3, 6-1. His service and fine first volleying overwhelmed the American. He also needed game ground strokes, which he used to advantage to pass Gorman, who attacked the blood Englishman's second serve with a forehand with his first.

Lewis will take home at least about \$1,400 from the event, in the fourth round. He is pulling his game together in good time as he dispatched the tall, powerful Englishman, Richard Lewis, by 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

He said he had taken a gamble in coming to Australia as no English team had come.

The top-seeded Guillermo Vilas, of Argentina, progressed through to the final eight with a 7-6, 6-2, 6-3 triumph over the American, Charles Pasarell, and he will next meet Rod Case, of Australia. Case, the eleventh seed, scored the big upset on today's programme by eliminating the fifth-seeded American, Richard Stockton, by 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Stockton was the beaten finalist in the New South Wales open last week when he lost to Tony Roche, of Australia, in the final. Roche was also knocked out today, losing to a 19-year-old, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 to the hard-seeded Smith in coming to Australia as no English team had come.

INDIA: First Innings, 155 (R. G. D. Willis 4-27)

S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100
S. A. M. Khan	100

ENGLAND: First Innings 315 (41.5 overs)

A. C. Davidson	100
I. D. Davis	67
M. J. G. McCosker	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100
R. G. Chappell	100

Miss Cooper in hot pursuit of another title

Kate Brasher, the outstanding 14-year-old prospect from Peterborough, Surrey, who did not go beyond the third round in the three junior championships, counted last year may find that she has reached her limit at this stage in another big event. She is being backed to top seed in the British junior covered court championships, sponsored by Green Shield, at Queen's Club today.

Miss Brasher, the youngest and smallest player in the competition, was one of the most convincing winners in yesterday's second round. She beat the 19-year-old from Leicester, 6-2, 6-1, to reach the last eight of the girls' singles.

But, Miss Cooper, from Sevenoaks, the favourite for the vacant title, is being backed to top seed in the British junior covered court championships, sponsored by Green Shield, at Queen's Club today.

Jarvis takes a gamble with future fitness

Nicky Jarvis will defy a painful back and risk the possibility of permanent injury in his efforts to prove that he is fit for world championship selection in the international table tennis championships, sponsored by the Norwich Union, at Thornaby, Teesside, this week.

Jarvis, 22, from Redcar, a regular international player for several years, has been plagued by a back injury for some months, the result he believes of over-training.

He has been told by a specialist that he could no longer damage by continuing to play and then only an operation would cure the problem. But that would keep him out of the game for 18 months and he has made the point that for the past several years he has wanted to represent his country in the world championships in Birmingham in two months' time.

The England team will be selected on Saturday so Jarvis, who had to pull out of a major injured tournament just before Christmas, has little time in which to prove that he is fit.

Jarvis is one of four Englishmen seeded for the championships, the favourite for the men's singles title being the Russian, Anatoly Stokorov. England's number one, Denis Neale, is the second seed, and has a great chance to become only the second English-born man for 50 years to win the domestic title.

Hammerites, England's European champion, is expected to retain the women's singles title even though she has not been at her best following an appendix operation earlier this season.

Table tennis

Nicky Jarvis will defy a painful back and risk the possibility of permanent injury in his efforts to prove that he is fit for world championship selection in the international table tennis championships, sponsored by the Norwich Union, at Thornaby, Teesside, this week.

Jarvis takes a gamble with future fitness

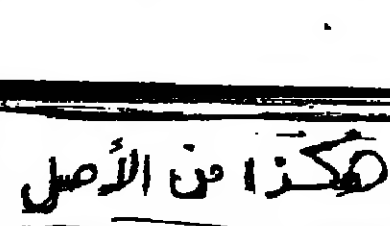
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OR DIRECT FROM ZETTERS, LONDON, E.C.1.

Prudence Glynn

Fashion



Photograph by Warren Harrison

Norman Hartnell's sketches for two of his creations. On the left, a black wedding dress of lace over satin. On the right, the Queen's Paris Opera dress

Hartnell: The Norman conquest

"Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths, Enwrought with golden and silver light, The blue and the dim and the dark cloths Of night and light and the half light, I would spread the cloths under your feet."

So wrote Yeats. For might, read knight. At long last the designer whose popular fame resides in the corrugating spangles with which he has decked our native royal deities for nearly half a century has been honoured with the KCVO. Only the American Norman Norrell could march sequins with Hartnell, though Rose Kennedy, when her husband was American Ambassador to London, recalls an occasion when the beads on her dress—it was of turquoise satin, but she does not tell us who by—became enmeshed with those on the pink satin gown of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, who was doubtless kissed out by the devoted Norman.

If you are going to be pre-empted on a long-planned piece about a particular person I can think of no nicer way to lose one's journalistic initiative than by the subject's being recognized by the state, especially when that recognition has been an area of campaign, indeed nagging, in column and conversation. It is no secret that I deeply wanted Norman Hartnell to be knighted, not only because he is a brilliantly gifted man whose career as a designer has been both uniquely straightforward and yet warped but also because I so passionately want the English to admit that they can do fashion on a world-beating level. After all, we have the most expensive and elaborate free education system for designers in the world, yet all too often I feel that, as a nation, we are only conscious of the audible sound, visually blind, and are positively embarrassed by elegance which is not an essential of life, even if some of us believe beauty and colour are essentials to the spirit. We honour pop stars, composers, actors, lots of whom I find dreary in the extreme, and neglect so many who enhance our environment, and in environment I include fashion. Small wonder that so many of our taxpayer-trained talents find greater sympathy abroad.

So I had planned some weeks back to make Norman Hartnell the subject of today's page. First, because, in case you could possibly have forgotten, this is Silver Jubilee Year, and in my province that can only be kicked off with the greatest of the royal designers. Second, because the advent of the Jubilee provided a once-for-all peg to examine the worth of a most unusual man, who has achieved, I think, the most difficult and at the same time the only true pinnacle of the creative artist. Superlative in one medium, he has put aside the temptation to find that medium limited and to diversify—his skills, possibly well, possibly not, and to concentrate on bringing to that medium, in which he is superlative, a new dimension. The analogy is surely the skater John Curry.

Norman Hartnell was born in 1901 and discovered as a designer by Corisande, Miss Minnie Hogg, correspondent of the *Evening Standard*, who in 1922 happened to see a Cambridge Footlights production and to be inspired by the efforts of the man who had done the costumes. Hartnell was the first English designer to win damages against a pirate, in his

case the famous Lucile, Lady Duff-Gordon, sister of Eleanor Glyn, patron of Molyneux, who won a newspaper competition offering a place in her diminishing salon. He made Barbara Cartland's first wedding dress—long, ruffled frills, when short sharp beads were all the thing—and her book *The Isthmus Years* is filled with recollections of his charm and generosity.

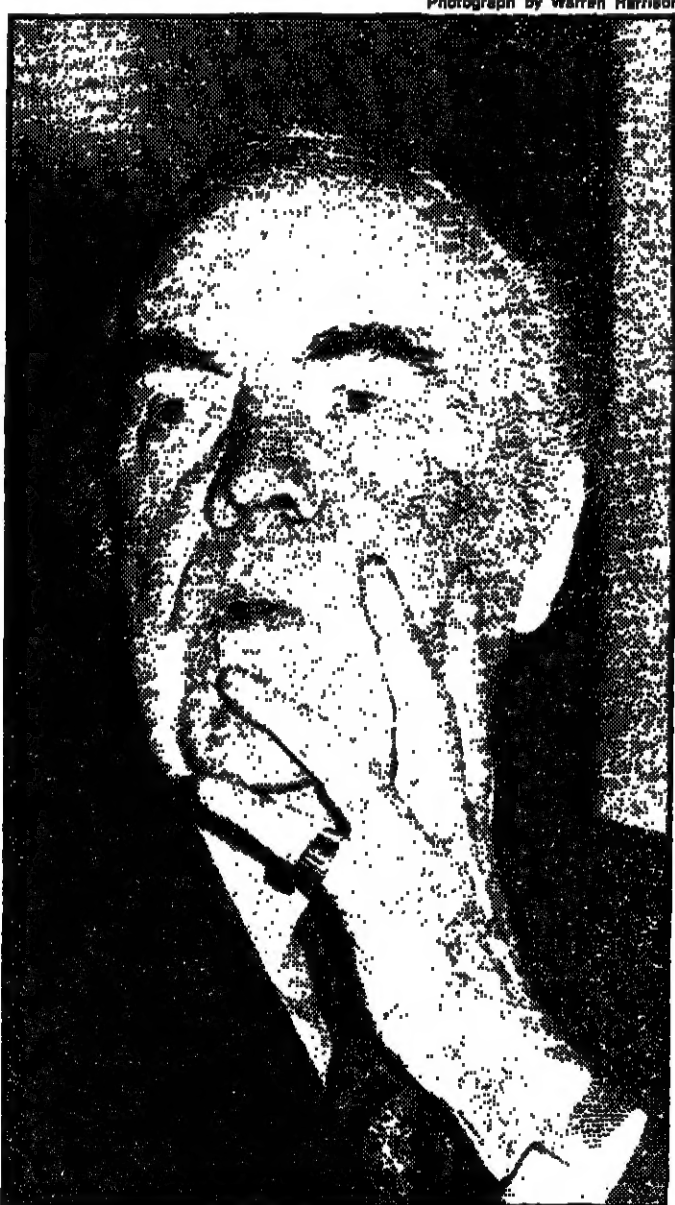
Charles Creed, Worth, Molyneux, Redfern were all English names famous in Paris when Norman Hartnell showed his first collection there in 1928. Afterwards, the great American designer Mainbocher, who has just died (his real name was Main Bocher, but it was the era of the run-together, like Louisboulanger) told him: "I have never seen so many incredibly beautiful dresses so incredibly badly made."

But great things beckoned. The young Hartnell got the job of designing the wedding dress for Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott when she married the Duke of Gloucester, and dressed the bridesmaids, who included Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose. In 1937 he provided the dresses for the Maids of Honour at the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, but not, as is sometimes stated, the Queen's robe, which was done by Madame Handley-Seymour, and the sketch of which by Irene Segalla some readers may remember from this page in the past. From then on the story is familiar; the Winterhalter inspired crinolines, the white outfits for the Queen's state visit to Paris when she was in mourning, the war service with ideas for utility clothes, the total assimilation into royal style with all it demanded and all it implies for a creative mind which should always be moving on.

Norman Hartnell himself says that his career has had three phases. To begin with, he was famous for ingenué, pretty dresses for innocent young girls. Then he discovered his love for the stage and began to dress very sexy, very sophisticated women who inspired him and taught him another tack in design. Then all his private clients wanted to look sexy, too. Hartnell was the Jacques Fath, you could say. Then Royalty struck, the briefs were inordinate, lengths predetermined, colours specified, construction geared to what had got to be pinned to what. It made me laugh to read that some peeresses had found herself wearing what she thought was the same dress as the Queen at the recent opening of Parliament, because I happen to know that the Queen, sensible as always, never wears a new dress for an occasion on which heavy, cumbersome robes which pull at the shoulders of the dress and, anyway, hide 90 per cent of it, are also on the ensemble, quite apart, of course, from the fact that no-one ever has a dress exactly like the Queen.

Then all the customers wanted the Royal style, or as near to it as was permissible, and as Royal style has moved inexorably away from high fashion into the ikon mould which brings comfort and confidence to people when the idea of a monarchy is both more scarce and to many irrelevant, so Hartnell was caught in what I call the Royal cul-de-sac, famous, yes, able to branch out, no. The sweetest and most charming of men, he has taken the limitations imposed on him without a word of complaint, indeed with joy and devotion to his Ladies whom he so well understands and serves; and if there are barbed comments, jokes even, at the expense of certain Royal *rennes* he sweeps past them.

But to those who take a broader view his potential must be the ever-arguable point. Indubitably greater than Molyneux, more fun than Dior, as jazzy as Bill Gibb, imbued with the passion for theatre design, would Hartnell have been Erté, Edith Head, Georgiadis, Adrian? Who knows; at any rate he is Sir Norman now.



Sir Norman Hartnell

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FOR \$4,905,000 NOMINAL CAPITAL.

Notice is hereby given that a drawing of the above bonds will be held at the office of the Public Trustee, 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on Thursday, 13th January 1977, at 2.00 p.m. The bonds will be drawn for the sum of £100,000 nominal capital, and the interest thereon will be paid quarterly in arrears on the 1st day of January, April, July and October in each year.

7 Bonds of £200 nominal capital each—Numbers:
85145 82154 86559 86704 86192 85384 86596

154 Bonds of £100 nominal capital each—Numbers:
60226 60303 60354 60537 60564 60577 60585 60590 60591 60592 60593 60594 60595 60596 60597 60598 60599 60600 60601 60602 60603 60604 60605 60606 60607 60608 60609 60610 60611 60612 60613 60614 60615 60616 60617 60618 60619 60620 60621 60622 60623 60624 60625 60626 60627 60628 60629 60630 60631 60632 60633 60634 60635 60636 60637 60638 60639 60640 60641 60642 60643 60644 60645 60646 60647 60648 60649 60650 60651 60652 60653 60654 60655 60656 60657 60658 60659 60660 60661 60662 60663 60664 60665 60666 60667 60668 60669 60670 60671 60672 60673 60674 60675 60676 60677 60678 60679 60680 60681 60682 60683 60684 60685 60686 60687 60688 60689 60690 60691 60692 60693 60694 60695 60696 60697 60698 60699 60700 60701 60702 60703 60704 60705 60706 60707 60708 60709 60710 60711 60712 60713 60714 60715 60716 60717 60718 60719 60720 60721 60722 60723 60724 60725 60726 60727 60728 60729 60730 60731 60732 60733 60734 60735 60736 60737 60738 60739 60740 60741 60742 60743 60744 60745 60746 60747 60748 60749 60750 60751 60752 60753 60754 60755 60756 60757 60758 60759 60760 60761 60762 60763 60764 60765 60766 60767 60768 60769 60770 60771 60772 60773 60774 60775 60776 60777 60778 60779 60780 60781 60782 60783 60784 60785 60786 60787 60788 60789 60790 60791 60792 60793 60794 60795 60796 60797 60798 60799 60800 60801 60802 60803 60804 60805 60806 60807 60808 60809 60810 60811 60812 60813 60814 60815 60816 60817 60818 60819 60820 60821 60822 60823 60824 60825 60826 60827 60828 60829 60830 60831 60832 60833 60834 60835 60836 60837 60838 60839 60840 60841 60842 60843 60844 60845 60846 60847 60848 60849 60850 60851 60852 60853 60854 60855 60856 60857 60858 60859 60860 60861 60862 60863 60864 60865 60866 60867 60868 60869 60870 60871 60872 60873 60874 60875 60876 60877 60878 60879 60880 60881 60882 60883 60884 60885 60886 60887 60888 60889 60890 60891 60892 60893 60894 60895 60896 60897 60898 60899 60900 60901 60902 60903 60904 60905 60906 60907 60908 60909 60910 60911 60912 60913 60914 60915 60916 60917 60918 60919 60920 60921 60922 60923 60924 60925 60926 60927 60928 60929 60930 60931 60932 60933 60934 60935 60936 60937 60938 60939 60940 60941 60942 60943 60944 60945 60946 60947 60948 60949 60950 60951 60952 60953 60954 60955 60956 60957 60958 60959 60960 60961 60962 60963 60964 60965 60966 60967 60968 60969 60970 60971 60972 60973 60974 60975 60976 60977 60978 60979 60980 60981 60982 60983 60984 60985 60986 60987 60988 60989 60990 60991 60992 60993 60994 60995 60996 60997 60998 60999 61000

DRAWING OF BONDS

CHILEAN 5% LOAN OF 1911
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PUBLIC NOTICES

also on page 22

GREATER LONDON COUNCIL INNER LONDON EDUCATION AUTHORITY

In pursuance of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Inner London Education Authority will hold a meeting of the Council on Tuesday, 11th January 1977, at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the proposed amalgamation of the Inner London Education Authority and the Greater London Council.

GREATER LONDON COUNCIL

In pursuance of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Greater London Council will hold a meeting of the Council on Tuesday, 11th January 1977, at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the proposed amalgamation of the Inner London Education Authority and the Greater London Council.

CHARITY COMMISSION

The Charity Commissioners have received a petition from the Trustees of the Charity of St. John's, London, for the appointment of a new trustee.

PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

The Church Commissioners have received a petition from the Trustees of the Church of St. John's, London, for the appointment of a new trustee.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

The Church Commissioners have received a petition from the Trustees of the Church of St. John's, London, for the appointment of a new trustee.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

CENTRAIS ELETRICAS DO SUL DO BRASIL S.A.—ELETROSUL

(Subsidiary of Eletrobras)

SALTO SANTIAGO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS OF LOW-VOLTAGE STATION SERVICE EQUIPMENT

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—Eletrosul will invite bids from qualified manufacturers (selected by means of the pre-qualification to which this notice refers) for the design, manufacture, supply, supervision of erection and field tests of the following equipment for the above mentioned project, situated on the Iguaçu river, State of Paraná, Brazil:

- Six 13800-480-volt unit substations, with one 1000KVA transformer and one 480-volt power switchboard with circuit breakers.
- One 13800-480-volt unit substation, with two 150 KVA transformers and one 480-volt power switchboard with circuit breakers.
- Ten 480-volt motor control centers, 600 amperes, Nema Class II.
- One 125-volt DC main distribution power switchboard, 600 amperes, with circuit breakers.
- Ten 125-volt DC distribution power switchboards, 300 amperes, with circuit breakers.
- One 120-volt distribution power switchboard, 300 amperes, with circuit breakers.
- One 480-volt distribution power switchboard, 300 amperes, with circuit breakers.

Each bid to be invited shall cover all equipment listed above.

For the payment of the above equipment, Eletrosul has available funds from the Inter-American Development Bank—IADB, under loan 289/OC-BR, which has already been granted.

Participation in the present pre-qualification will be limited to manufacturers established in member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank, developing countries which are members of the International Monetary Fund and/or developed countries which, on the date of the invitation, have been declared eligible for this purpose by the bank.

The "instructions for pre-qualification proposals" will be available to the applicants free of charge until February 10th, 1977 at the following address:

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—Eletrosul
Diretoria Administrativa Edifício Trajano, Rua Trajano 41-30 Andar
Telex 0482164
88.000—Florianópolis—Santa Catarina Brazil.

CENTRAIS ELETRICAS DO SUL DO BRASIL S.A.—ELETROSUL

(Subsidiary of Eletrobras)

SALTO SANTIAGO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS OF MEDIUM-VOLTAGE STATION SERVICE EQUIPMENT

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—Eletrosul will invite bids from qualified manufacturers (selected by means of the pre-qualification to which this notice refers) for the design, manufacture, supply, supervision of erection and field tests of the following equipment for the above mentioned project, situated on the Iguaçu river, State of Paraná, Brazil:

- Three 3,750-kv three-phase transformers, with on-load tap charger, primary voltage 15 to 19 kv, secondary voltage 13.8 kv.
- Two outdoor type metal-clad switchgear assemblies, rated voltage 24 kv, each including a draw-out circuit breaker.
- One indoor type metal-clad switchgear assembly, rated voltage 13.8 kv, comprising fourteen draw-out type circuit breakers.

Each bid to be invited shall cover all equipment listed above.

For the payment of the above equipment, Eletrosul has available funds from the Inter-American Development Bank—IADB under loan 289/OC-BR, which has already been granted.

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Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—Eletrosul
Diretoria Administrativa Edifício Trajano, Rua Trajano, 41—30 Andar
Telex 0482 164
88.000—Florianópolis—Santa Catarina Brazil

Portraits of the men who will make up the new EEC Commission in Brussels

Decision day for the 12 members of the Jenkins team

Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission for the past four years, is set to be replaced by Mr. Jenkins, who was born in 1925, has a strong claim to the Commission's equivalent portfolio. He believes passionately that it is important for the EEC not to lose sight of the goal of economic and monetary union.

Mr Claude Cheysson, As the second French member of the new Commission, Mr Cheysson will be hoping to consolidate his reputation as one of the most effective operators of the outgoing body. He made his name as the architect of the Lomé Convention, signed in February, 1975, with 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the Convention is widely regarded as a genuine innovation in relations between industrialized and developing countries.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Like their French colleagues, the two new German Commissioners are also being reappointed for another four years. Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp's re-nomination as a vice-

president is thought to be largely due to the backing of the Confederation of German Trade Unions on whose federal executive he sat immediately before moving to Brussels in 1967.

Putting it at its kindest, his conduct of the Commission's important economic and monetary affairs department over the past four years can only be described as uninspiring. The impression has been of someone out of his depth. Mr Jenkins's badly handled, but unfortunately well publicized, attempts to persuade Helmut Schmidt to nominate replacement will hardly make for the smoothest of working relationships.

Born in 1923, Herr Haferkamp was wounded in the last world war, degree in economics at Cologne University immediately after it, and moved exclusively in trade union circles before his translation to Brussels.

Mr Guido Brunner, the second German Commissioner, is equally lacking in charisma, though he is generally reckoned to be able and to have made the best of a particularly thankless portfolio during his time in Brussels. Blame for the halting progress of the EEC's scientific research policy—epitomized by the stalemate among the Nine over the site of the joint European Torus thermonuclear fusion project—can hardly be laid at his door.

As the choice of the Free Democrat wing of the West German Coalition, Dr Brunner is close to Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister. He is understood to covet the Commission's external affairs portfolio vacated by Sir Christopher Jenkins, which may now be subdivided.

Technically he would be well qualified for the job, having held a series of diplomatic posts before coming to Brussels in 1964. But his lack of presence and political clout are a handicap. He was born in 1930 in Madrid, and studied law at the universities of Madrid, Munich and Heidelberg.

Mr Antonio Giliotti, Among the more interesting newcomers to the Commission is Signor Antonio Giliotti, one of the two new Italian members. He joined the Communist Party after the war, but became active in the Italian resistance, becoming Under-Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

longer have power to examine the constitutionality of any Central law. (Central law means Federal law as opposed to the laws of the states. But this provision covers not only Acts of Parliament but all administrative rules, decrees and orders made by the Executive under any Statute.) Next, the citizen's right to challenge decisions of State tribunals in the High Court has been removed; an individual can now only proceed direct to the Supreme Court. His right to do so is rigidly circumscribed in the Legislation, which limits the range of such petitions the Supreme Court can hear, but much worse than that, the fact that the proposed change means that such litigation (normally concerned with the citizen's desire to establish whether his rights have been infringed) is thus put beyond the financial resources of the poor. Since the Supreme Court sits only in Delhi and its procedures are naturally more complex and demanding than those of the lower courts, the deterrent effect, clearly intentional, of this provision is added an even worse threat: the Supreme Court, and the High Courts, are already years behind in their work. The Supreme Court can only become more so if cases are referred direct to its jurisdiction instead of being decided as now, in the lower courts. The only solution to the congestion would be the appointment of more Supreme Court judges; it does not require much imagination to guess of what stripe the judges thus appointed will be.

The Legislation, as I shall make clear, seriously limits the powers of the courts to scrutinize legislation to see whether it accords with the Constitution; but even within the restricted area in which this will still be possible, it is to be made much more difficult, for Mrs Gandhi has decreed that from now on no High Court or Supreme Court ruling against the constitutionality of any law or other measure will be valid unless two-thirds of the judges on the bench deciding the case are of that opinion.

In any case, Mrs Gandhi's Legislation will reduce judicial review of law, hitherto as integral a part of the Indian Constitution as of the American, to a point at which it becomes virtually meaningless anyway. For from now on, no amendment to the Constitution may be challenged by anybody in any court, of any ground. Since, as I explained yesterday, the Legislation gives Mrs Gandhi effectively untrammelled power to alter the Constitution in future by decree, this means that if any provision of it should prove awkward in thwarting her aims or actions, or if judges, though restricted, still manage to defend important sections of it, the embarrassing items may be removed

At three o'clock this afternoon Mr Roy Jenkins and the 12 other new European Commissioners will retire into Papal conclave on the 13th floor of the Berlaymont building in Brussels. Some—possibly many—hours later the new President is expected to emerge with a list of the jobs which have been allocated.

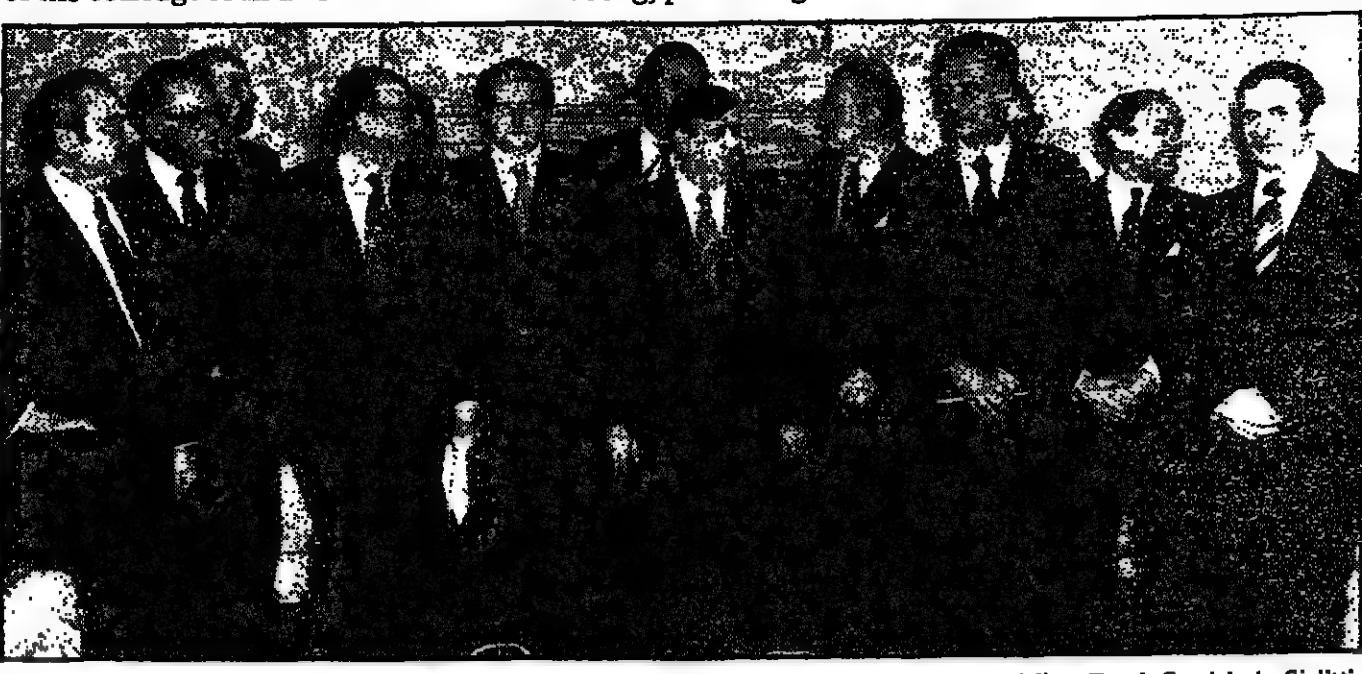
Although *primus inter pares*, Mr Jenkins ultimately has no greater say than any of his colleagues in this

delicate exercise since the allocation of each portfolio is finally decided by a majority vote of the 13-man body. His role will be one of persuasion and attempting to guide the bargaining in the direction he desires.

Once the job share-out is over, there is still a final formality to be completed. Next Tuesday Mr Jenkins and the rest of his team will take an oath before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, promising

"Neither to seek nor to take instruction from any government or body".

The oath symbolizes the supposed transfiguration of national politicians temporarily seconded to Brussels into "Europeans", impartial and implacable guardians of the Rome Treaty, immune to special pleading from home capitals. Clothed in this new aura, the Commissioners then present themselves to the European Parliament.



The Commissioners, from the left: Ortoli, Haferkamp, Davignon, Jenkins, Natali, Tugendhat, Vredeling, Vouel, Gundelach, Giliotti, Brunner, Cheysson, Burke.

in the first Republican Government. He resigned from the Communist Party in 1957 after the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

Since then, Signor Giliotti has been prominent in the Socialist Party and was Minister for the Budget and Economic Planning in the 1964, 1970-72 and 1973-74 centre-left governments.

In 1974 he represented Italy at the fourth special session of the United Nations General Assembly and in the same year was President of the Council of Ministers of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

He is the author of books on European communism and socialism and gave a series of

lectures on political themes in Britain in 1973 and 1975. He was born in 1915 and graduated in law.

Mr Lorenzo Natali, A member of the Christian Democrat Party, Signor Lorenzo Natali has previous experience of the EEC as Italian Minister for Agriculture. As one of the vice-presidents of the new Commission, he will now be looking at the Community from a rather different perspective. His other ministerial jobs have included spells as Minister for the Merchant Navy, for Tourism and Entertainment, and for Public Works.

Born in Florence in 1922.

Signor Natali was a volunteer in the Italian Liberation Corps in 1944, was wounded in action and decorated for bravery. A lawyer by training, he has been returned to the Italian Parliament by the Abruzzi constituency for seven consecutive terms of office.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, A little-known quantity in Brussels, Mr Christopher Tugendhat was a surprise choice for the second British Commissioner after Mr Jenkins.

After education at Ampleforth and Cambridge, where he was President of the Union, he spent 10 years on the Financial Times as a leader and feature writer specializing in energy questions.

He has written two well received books—*Oil: The Biggest Business and The Multinationals*—both of which are relevant to the EEC, though it seems unlikely for political reasons that Mr Tugendhat will get the Commission's energy

portfolio. He has also published a pamphlet on the EEC and the Third World.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, Only four years older than Mr Tugendhat, Belgium's new man on the Commission, Viscount Etienne Davignon, is already a well-known figure on the European stage and beyond.

As Director-General of Political Affairs at the Belgian Foreign Ministry, he made certain of at least one footnote in the history books by lending his name to the so-called Davignon Committee, which since 1969 has brought together senior officials of the Nine to discuss political cooperation outside the strict framework of the Rome Treaty.

In 1974 he was made chairman of this International Energy Agency, the American-sponsored body set up after the quadrupling of oil prices in 1973 in an attempt to coordinate the energy policies of the industrialized countries.

Urbane and debonair, with flawless English, Viscount Davignon is the son of a distinguished diplomat. He was born in Budapest, and graduated in law from Louvain University.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Danish representation on the Commission remains unchanged with the reappointment of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, 51, who becomes one of the five vice-presidents of the new body.

A career diplomat before coming to Brussels, he has spent most of the last four years nurturing the Community's customs union, an onerous and unglamorous task for which he got few thanks and little publicity.

But as a result of the illness of Sir Christopher Jenkins last year, he suddenly found himself thrust into the limelight, entrusted with the conduct of important trade negotiations with Japan and delicate discussions with the Icelanders over British fishing rights.

His blunt writing to the Japanese that they must take steps to redress their trade imbalance with the EEC or face the consequences caused something of a furor.

Mr Gundelach is regarded as being almost certain to get the agricultural portfolio formerly held by Mr Pierre Lardinois.

Mr Henk Vredeling, One of the liveliest wires in Mr Jenkins's team promises to bring Mr Henk Vredeling, the Dutch member of the Commission.

A controversial Defence Minister from 1973 until his

appointment to the Commission, he was often at odds with his equally outspoken compatriot, Dr Josef Luns, the Secretary-General of Nato.

Criticism from Nato headquarters of Dutch defence cuts once provoked Mr Vredeling to say that he would "like to kick Dr Luns's head between the goal posts".

A member of the Dutch Labour Party, Mr Vredeling, 52, is an expert on agricultural questions and has an outside chance to get the farm portfolio, one of the Commission's key jobs.

Mr Richard Burke, Ireland's new man on the Commission, Mr Richard Burke, seems fated to spend his early months in Brussels living down the unlikely reputation which has preceded him from Dublin. An unfortunate manner with the press, who find him stiff and unhelpful, and ultra-conservative social and political opinions, which place him on the clerical, right-wing of the Fine Gael, appear to account for this unhappy advance billing.

Mr Burke, 44, is understood to owe his Brussels job to his close association with Mr Liam Cosgrave, the Irish Prime Minister. Fine Gael chief whip from 1969 to 1972, he was Minister of Education at the time of his appointment to the Commission.

He was educated by the Christian Brothers, and subsequently trained as a lawyer. Mr Burke is remembered for having voted in 1974 against a Bill that would have legalized the sale of contraceptives to married couples.

Mr Raymond Vouel, Virtually unknown outside the Lullulian world of Luxembourg politics, Mr Raymond Vouel joined the Commission last year to replace the late Mr Albert Borschette. His few months in Brussels have done little to illuminate the obscurity whence he came.

He remains on the Jenkins Commission as the Luxembourg member. He has yet to give a press conference in Brussels, and has declined all requests for interviews. There are many people who do not even know who he looks like.

Curiously, he began his career as a journalist, specialising in political affairs, then served as the director of a hospital and a town councillor in Luxembourg before joining the Luxembourg government in 1964 as a socialist.

Michael Hornsby

Bernard Levin

The simple truth about Mrs Gandhi and her path to dictatorship

Yesterday, I gave an account of the further substantial progress towards a dictatorship made by Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, with the Bill (passed by the Central Parliament, from which many Opposition leaders have been removed to indefinite detention without trial) to re-write the Indian Constitution. The Constitution (44th Amendment) Bill, which I call the "Legislation" for convenience, contains, as I recounted yesterday, provisions which would make the basic democratic rights of Indian citizens a nullity, give Mrs Gandhi powers to ban any kind of political activity critical of her regime, enable her to exact repressive measures without even the formal sanction of Parliament, destroy the safeguard against dictatorship provided by the political independence of the President, and make permanent the Emergency laws and decrees instituted under the State of Emergency (including the censorship of the press and the imprisonment of political opponents).

Today, I want to give further details of the way in which the Legislation makes Mrs Gandhi's path to dictatorship easier, and in particular to describe the ways in which it removes or weakens the most important barriers to that path, the independence and reserve powers of the judiciary.

To start with, the Legislation provides that the High Courts of the individual states will no

longer have power to examine the constitutionality of any Central law. (Central law means Federal law as opposed to the laws of the states. But this provision covers not only Acts of Parliament but all administrative rules, decrees and orders made by the Executive under any Statute.)

Next, the citizen's right to challenge decisions of State tribunals in the High Court has been removed; an individual can now only proceed direct to the Supreme Court. His right to do so is rigidly circumscribed in the Legislation, which limits the range of such petitions the Supreme Court can hear, but much worse than that, the fact that the proposed change means that such litigation (normally concerned with the citizen's desire to establish whether his rights have been infringed) is thus put beyond the financial resources of the poor. Since the Supreme Court sits only in Delhi and its procedures are naturally more complex and demanding than those of the lower courts, the deterrent effect, clearly intentional, of this provision is added an even worse threat: the Supreme Court, and the High Courts, are already years behind in their work. The Supreme Court can only become more so if cases are referred direct to its jurisdiction instead of being decided as now, in the lower courts. The only solution to the congestion would be the appointment

ment of more Supreme Court judges; it does not require much imagination to guess of what stripe the judges thus appointed will be.

The Legislation, as I shall make clear, seriously limits the powers of the courts to scrutinize legislation to see whether it accords with the Constitution; but even within the restricted area in which this will still be possible, it is to be made much more difficult, for Mrs Gandhi has decreed that from now on no High Court or Supreme Court ruling against the constitutionality of any law or other measure will be valid unless two-thirds of the judges on the bench deciding the case are of that opinion.

In any case, Mrs Gandhi's Legislation will reduce judicial review of law, hitherto as integral a part of the Indian Constitution as of the American, to a point at which it becomes virtually meaningless anyway. For from now on, no amendment to the Constitution may be challenged by anybody in any court, of any ground. Since, as I explained yesterday, the Legislation gives Mrs Gandhi effectively untrammelled power to alter the Constitution in future by decree, this means that if any provision of it should prove awkward in thwarting her aims or actions, or if judges, though restricted, still manage to defend important sections of it, the embarrassing items may be removed

The tyrannous provisions of what Mrs Gandhi is demanding are entirely unnecessary except to one who wants total power...



without difficulty and without any redress in law at all.

The reason for this particular provision is particularly interesting. One of the obstacles to Mrs Gandhi's personal rule has been the Supreme Court's judgment in the crucial case of Kesavanand Bharati. In this, the Court recognized that the elected Parliament's powers are, and should be, very wide indeed, but not entirely limitless: and the limit they established was a crucial one. They laid down that amendments which would damage or destroy "the fundamental nature of the Constitution" can be held invalid. That case, which was a matter of property, resulted not only in the establishment of the principle of the property rights of the wealthy, but in fact, examination of the Indian Supreme Court's record in this field shows that they have not legislation on

such matters as land reform, the Privy Purses, and bank nationalisation, has been upheld by the Supreme Court.

The truth is that the Bharati case stands on the way to no economic reforms, but of Mrs Gandhi's attempt, in a previous measure purporting to amend the Constitution (but blocked by the Supreme Court), to put her election beyond challenge even if it had been achieved by corrupt practices, and also of her move (likewise stopped for the moment by judicial action) to give herself and her chief political cronies complete immunity from prosecution for criminal offences committed during their tenure of office or even before.

There are other provisions in the Legislation which are clearly designed to enhance the power of the Executive still further. Many matters, for instance, are to be withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the High Courts and ruled upon by the Supreme Court (much more easily controlled by Mrs Gandhi's regime); nor are these, by any means, only trivial matters which take up the courts' time unnecessarily and could well be dealt with by administrative bodies for they include questions of taxation, food procurement and distribution, industrial disputes, foreign exchange and elections. And one of the most sinister items in the Legislation gives the Central Government the unlimited right to send troops into any of the States without the consent of the State

Government, to counter a threat to law and order. Under the present Constitution such action may be taken, but only if the offending or troubled State is violating the constitution or unable to govern itself; it is now proposed that even when no breach of the Constitution is being committed, and no situation threatening the stability of the State exists, the Central Government may send troops and also the State its own definition, not subject to any independent review, of a threat to law and order.

Beside this massive deployment of the weapons of oppression, there is one further provision in the Legislation which may seem to represent only small-scale fire, and so indeed it does; but it is not the less significant in what it symbolizes. Under the present law, members of either the Central or a State legislature who have been found guilty of corrupt electoral practices are subject to disqualification from membership for specified periods. But under the Legislation, the Government (nominally the President, but actually Mrs Gandhi) strips him entirely of independent powers and obliges him to act only as directed by the executive (he has the absolute power to decide what period of disqualification, any, corrupt MPs are to suffer. As Mrs Gandhi's move against democracy took place when, and because, she was herself convicted of such practices and liable to be disquali-

fied from office under the law, the purposes of what she now proposes is not difficult to understand.

The 59 Clauses of the Constitution (44th Amendment) Bill, which I have been able to review, but all the provisions are directed to the same end; that is, the transformation of India from a democracy into a dictatorship run by Mrs Indira Gandhi. If the Bill is passed (it has gone through the Central Parliament, and now awaits ratification by the States, which it seems certain to get) the Indian Constitution will be a dead letter, the safeguards against tyranny destroyed, the power given to Mrs Gandhi limitless. Her apologists argue that although the Legislation gives her the opportunity to become a complete dictator, she will not take it. The answer is twofold: first, she has already taken it, even under the present Constitution, a wide range of dictatorial powers, and committed a wide range of oppressive acts (many of them, such as the destruction of the freedom of the press, largely illegal). Secondly, most of the tyrannous provisions of what she is now demanding are entirely unnecessary except to one who wants total power and the ability to use it without check. The truth is that Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator, and is going to be.

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The Times Diary

Forging the party line on women

The Communist Party of Great Britain is nothing if not democratic. Having decided upon a major review of its manifesto, *The British Road To Socialism*, which has remained substantially unaltered since the late Stalinist days of the early fifties, it is asking the various factions within the party to contribute to an updated version. Women Communists have been getting their oar in this week by holding three long evenings of discussion on the role of feminism within socialism. Alan Hamilton reports:

the delay was generally accepted with good grace. Sarah Benton, a slim and wiry freelance journalist, opened the debate with a half-hour discourse on the division of labour. Feminism, she conceded, was a new concept in British Marxist thinking. "Leaders of socialist thought have too often been obsessed with sexual thought instead of concentrating on the real problems."

Miss Benton reckoned that the rise of feminism was in part a result of effective contraception on the role of feminism within socialism. Alan Hamilton reports: I paid 20p to party funds to gain admittance to a crowded lecture theatre at the Central London Polytechnic to listen to an earnest debate on "Capitalism And The Power Of Men". The audience was predominantly female, many with long hair, gold-rimmed glasses and duffel coats. Smoking was not allowed, but it was still stuffy and overcrowded, with some 200 people in a small room.

The meeting began an hour after the advertised time but

family unit, which she said capitalism had invented as "the biologically basic mode". A family woman with two teenage children, she made a telling point when she said that housewives were driven to tranquillizers and despair when they felt they failed to come up to the glossy stereotype portrayed in advertisements and other capitalist propaganda.

Speakers from the floor then weighed into the two speakers for describing rather than analysing the problems, and the air became thick with debate on the relative merits of various "isms", including feminism, naturalism and socialism, though not too many "people-in-one-small-roomism". The debate was to continue for two more days. I hope the draftsmen of King Street are the wiser at the end of it.

Insulting

The last time Winston Nushona and John Kani gave a performance of the highly acclaimed play, *Shogun*, they were arrested and spent 15 days in solitary confinement in a South African prison. They were not charged, but were warned that they might soon find themselves in court facing allegations of inciting racial hatred and using vulgar and insulting language.

Their next performance

should be less troublesome. The play, already seen on the London stage and on British television, returns to the Royal Court theatre today for a six-week run. Nushona and Kani gave a press conference yesterday and reported that they received their passports to leave for Britain only 12 hours before their scheduled departure.

They will return home as soon as their run at the Royal Court is finished, but have no plans to test the authorities with another performance of the controversial work. They have plans for a new production, which they are wisely keeping quiet about for the time being.

Satanic

There was an appropriate whiff of historical romance, and some suitably satanic Black Velvet, at the celebration of Dennis Wheatley's eightieth birthday on Tuesday night. The author, a stunningly clad in a powder blue dinner jacket with a white orchid pinned on his midnight lapel, had hired Vintners' Hall for his 300 guests.

It was he told them, the only building of its type to have survived both the Great Fire of London and the bombs of the Second World War. On this very ground, he added, the first mass of the Vintners had entertained five kings to dinner

in one night. Wheatley was not quite so laudatory, though there were cited folk about and a press release distributed by his publishers recalled that he had once been wine merchant to "three Kings, 21 Princes and many millionaires".

It was because that business fell victim to the depression that Wheatley wrote his first novel. It reprinted seven times in seven weeks, and since then his yarns have sold over 40 million copies in 29 languages. Guests were treated to a full résumé of Wheatley's diverse achievements in a film shown three times during the evening. In its course Wheatley revealed that beside writing more than 50 books, inventing war games and planning victory in the Second World War, he had laid out stars and his bathroom with cut-out fish, collected 40,000 stamps, a star of 3,000 bottles of finest wines and a huge library of books.

Nice to see that venerable British traditions are being maintained in Oxfordshire. Reporting the cold snap, the Oxford Times has two local deities saying that "some of their gritters were temporarily out of action because of the freezing weather".

Was it through an oversight that journalists were not included in the National Council on Alcoholism's list of professional most prone to fatally heavy drinking? Or are we a more abstemious lot than we like to make out?

Cheap

Robin Young ventured into sale-and-for the last of his London wine bar tests: The Loose Box is handy for the January rush to the Bromp-ton Road Emporium, though a trio of notices fixed to the painted brick walls by the back entrance, giving on to Chevalier street, the bar is not always enjoyed cordial relations with its Knightsbridge neighbours. Customers are implored to park considerably, not to take glasses and bottles outside, and to leave promptly at 11 pm. There was no problem about dry madeira. They do not serve madeira of any sort. Nor did they have a mammoth sherry, but Gonzalez Byass's Elegante, served from the refrigerator, was 36p.

The bar is something of a bargain basement itself, the wine list having been chosen with an eye to economy rather than high reputation. The Sidi Larbi Moroccan red I chose was the cheapest drinkable table wine encountered during the

survey, at 25p a glass. It was thin, though, and served in appropriately chilled. Some 18 other wines offered by the glass range from 28p to "sparkling" at 42p.

The battered and stained wine list included an unwelcome note that the vintages stated could not be guaranteed (some were quoted as 1972-74 in any case). It had nothing of distinction among the claret, nor of age greater than 1972. Also lacking were soup and the usual wine bar standby, game pie. A restaurant section upstairs offered pork chops and mushrooms in wine sauce at £1.10, but I stayed below and chose pâté and salad (plus 30p for each portion of various salads, however small) in preference to a flabby and pale quiche lorraine.

Cheese was 50p, but the brie was a little underripe, the port salubrious and there were no English cheeses left. There was no vintage port except a late bottled Taylor's 1971. All right for a hurried snack, but not the place for a celebration if you do well at the sales. My bill was £2.77.

Next: Conclusions

I like a caricature that knows its own mind. Lady Morland writes to tell me that her husband, Sir Oscar, who used to be British ambassador in Tokyo, wrote to the BBC complaining politely about their own pronunciation of Japanese names. He pointed out that it should be exactly like Italian, no stress on any syllable but a final e. The BBC replied that they had discussed this matter, but had decided that their own pronunciation was best. Ha!

PHS

كذلك من الأصل



NOT TOO PETTY FOR A JURY

Trial by jury, to the British, is more than a procedural device for deciding whether a person accused of crime is guilty or not. It is deeply embedded in the national consciousness as a bulwark against tyranny, a safeguard against the state, and one of the distinguishing features of a free society. It has worked well in the past, and for the most part, continues to do so. It must therefore, not be restricted severely unless that is absolutely necessary for the fair and efficient functioning of the system of criminal justice.

The Criminal Law Bill, now before the House of Lords, includes provisions which would remove the right of electing trial by jury from defendants in specified categories of cases. The most controversial provision would make theft and similar offences involving amounts of less than £20 triable only in the magistrates' courts.

No one disputes that conviction for such "trivial" thefts may bring severe consequences for the convicted person (and his or her family): loss of standing and reputation in his own community, club, place of employment or social circle—a misfortune which is not confined to any one class or condition of person; or being dismissed from employment and having great difficulty in finding a decent alternative job. The James Committee, on whose recommendation that part of the Bill is based, took the view that the interests of society in having the pressures on the overburdened Crown Court eased, so reducing delays in awaiting trial, outweighed any possible adverse effects to individual defendants.

It has been questioned whether delays in the Crown Court are in fact so inordinate as to warrant such far-reaching measures. It has also been pointed out that the problem is mainly confined to London and the South-east and that it is precisely these areas that there are also substantial delays in cases coming to trial in the magistrates' courts. If that were right, the proposed change would be unnecessary in the provinces and would not have the desired effect in London.

It is difficult to assess exactly what effect the implementation of that part of the Bill would have in practice. The tentative estimate is that over 3,000 cases of "trivial" theft would be removed annually from the higher to lower courts, although

that does not tell us to what extent delays would be reduced. The trend, however, is for delays in the Crown Court to be increasing again after a period of relative stability. The standstill in the building and expansion programme for the courts, caused by the public expenditure cuts, is likely to confirm that trend for at least a few years.

The question therefore poses itself as a straightforward choice between securing less delay in awaiting trial for the generality of defendants at the possible expense of those who would be denied trial by jury, or retaining the existing procedure in the knowledge that it would make the administration of criminal justice slower, and possibly deny, by delaying, justice for some. Implicit in the argument is the belief that justice for the innocent defendant is more certain before a jury, or, to put it another way, that a wrongful conviction is more likely in a magistrates' court.

Magistrates, it is said, are prosecution minded; that they are too ready to accept uncritically evidence given by the police; and that they still suffer from the blinkers of their largely white middle-class membership. Juries are said to be more willing to disbelieve police witnesses and more likely to understand the evidence of, and be sympathetic to, young, working-class, or black defendants. The availability of any or any adequate legal representation is much more uncertain in magistrates' courts, whereas in the Crown Court a defendant pleading not guilty is virtually certain to get proper representation under legal aid.

A further reason for choosing trial by jury is that in the higher court the defence knows exactly what the prosecution case is. A source of constant complaint about magistrates' courts has been that the defence often has little idea of what evidence prosecution witnesses are likely to give. One recommendation of the James Committee, inexplicably not adopted by the Government, would have made it easier for the defence in magistrates' courts to obtain copies of the prosecution witnesses' statements at an early stage.

It is likely that in all but a very small proportion of cases the result would be the same whatever the forum of the trial. The fact is, however, that many people believe in, and wish to choose, jury trial, and their right

to do so should not be lightly removed. So far as "trivial" thefts are concerned, the case for removing the choice has not been made out. Although there are some examples in English law of offences involving dishonesty being triable only by magistrates (for instance, intentionally avoiding paying railway fares), in general such offences, which import consequences other than those directly imposed by the law, are thought to warrant the right to elect trial by jury. That is a sound principle and ought to continue to be followed.

Different considerations apply to drinking and driving offences, the other large category of cases (over 3,000) which the Bill would remove from the higher courts. There is little social stigma attached to being convicted of drunken driving (the more the pity, many would say), the penalties do not involve loss of liberty and, with the exception of a disqualification for someone whose livelihood depends on driving, the other consequences of conviction are likely to be minor. In these cases the limitation of trial by jury is justified.

The Bill has also come under criticism for removing that right in two other, numerically smaller, categories of cases, assaulting the police and importuning by male homosexuals. A high degree of moral obloquy accompanies conviction for the latter offence, and unpleasant extra-legal consequences are likely to follow. Defendants should therefore be entitled to the trial of their choice. In the case of assault against the police, a significant number of prosecutions are brought in which the defendants are black, and in view of the current state of tension between their community and the police, and of the feeling which exists in some circles that whatever the colour of the defendant magistrates are strongly predisposed to believe the police version, the right to trial by jury should stand.

By retaining the provisions in the Bill making drink-and-drive offences, criminal damage involving over £100, and some other minor categories triable only by magistrates, while abandoning those provisions doing the same for petty thefts, male importuning and assaulting the police, the Crown Court would still be relieved of nearly half the estimated reduction of 8,000 cases which the reform was expected to achieve.

The hereditary peerage

From Mr Humphry Berkeley
Sir, Surely the answer to Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke (January 4) is that "the balance of the constitution" was altered by the Life Peerages Act which was introduced into Parliament and became law in 1958 by Mr Harold Macmillan's Conservative Government, when Mr Fletcher-Cooke was himself a Conservative member of Parliament.

A reading of the Parliamentary Debates makes it quite clear that it was the intention of Parliament to alter the composition of the House of Lords in two ways. There were to be Life Peers (apart from Law Lords, who were already Life Peers) who could be men or women. Thus in 1958, for the first time, women sat in the House of Lords.

Later, when the remuneration of Peers came to be considered, the opportunity was taken to correct the anomalous situation which allowed Life Peers to sit in the House, a right denied to Hereditary Peers. Accordingly, and again by Statute, provision was made for the latter to sit in the House of Lords.

Prime Minister Mr Heath was compelled to recommend to Her Majesty the award of a particular title of honour, nor should he feel under any obligation to do so. Mr Attlee incurred no criticism, on constitutional grounds or on grounds of breaching the hereditary principle, by refraining from recommending the creation of new Baronies (with the exception of the Lord Mayor of London) from 1945 until 1951, when he was Prime Minister.

Mr Fletcher-Cooke attempts to draw a distinction between "appointed" Peers and "independent" Peers, the latter being hereditary. But if the present, or a future, Prime Minister were to recommend the creation of new hereditary Peers, these, too, would be "appointed". "Independent" Peers, that is to say Peers who are not of first creation, remain because Mr Wilson's first Labour Government was unable to change the composition of the House of Lords by Statute, although it tried to do so.

Only the real danger to the composition of the House of Lords and to the balance of the constitution resides in the unlimited right of Prime Ministers to recommend the creation of as many Peers as they wish, even hundreds at a time, if they so wish. On two occasions, once in 1832 and once in 1910, the threat was made. On each occasion the monarch indicated that he would feel bound to accept the recommendations of his Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Chiswick, W4,
January 4.

From John Lee, MP for Birmingham, Handsworth (Labour)
Sir, Charles Fletcher Cooke's interesting letter (January 4) upon the change occasioned by the absence of hereditary peerage creations raises even wider constitutional issues than perhaps he realises. Sooner or later the question has to be faced as to whether or not the ancient practice whereby hereditary peerages—invariably of senior rank—are conferred upon members of the Royal Family is still to continue. If it is, then, assuming no further hereditary creations in the House of Lords, the extraordinary situation will arise of there being a gradual increase in the number of Dukes and Earls (as each generation of the Royal Family grows up), whilst the rest diminish with extinction. If, on the other hand, the practice of the past is not to continue, then a profound change will have taken place in the character of the Monarchy; and that without any debate or legislation in Parliament.

This being Jubilee Year, I sought the other day to put down in Parliament a Question on the subject of Royal Peers, only to be told by the officials of the House, no doubt quite correctly, that such questions were out of order.

I regard the hereditary right to legislate as being indefensible, but, in common with Charles Fletcher-Cooke, I am resolutely opposed to constitutional change occurring by stealth.

Yours, etc,
JOHN LEE,
House of Commons,
January 4.

Class hatred
From Mr Arthur Freeman
Sir, Dom Benet Innes argues (December 31) that incitement to class hatred should be illegal. It is the common law of sedition makes illegal not only propaganda against the Sovereign and the Royal Family, against the Government and both Houses of Parliament, and against the administration of justice, nor only incitement to alter the constitution of Church or State by unlawful means, nor only incitement to discontent or disaffection in the population—but also incitement to "ill-will and hostility between different classes", to quote the standard textbook, Stephen's *Digest of the Criminal Law*.

It is true that the sedition law has not been used for a long time, but it is also true that it can be used against republicans, humanists, socialists, or anyone who is not among the party of the establishment. The trouble is that the cure would be worse than the disease, as usual when freedom of speech is suppressed.

Yours etc,
ARTHUR FREEMAN,
88a Whitechapel High Street, E1.

The year of the beaver
From Mr Kenneth Jordan
Sir, Jack Jones may have overlooked the fact that the beaver has an annoying habit of promoting log jams.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH JORDAN,
Aquis House,
Gurney Slade,
Bath.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You will be poorer this year

From Professor C. J. Constable

Sir, The importance of your leading article this morning (December 23) cannot be over emphasized. In the course of my work I talk to managers from many different companies. Almost without exception they feel they have been unfairly treated during the past two years.

Examples abound of the nonsense created by the squeeze on so called "top salaries" and punitive tax rates: One man, working for a company which exports over 70 per cent of its output, had recently appointed a national of another European country to work as his subordinate in that country at over twice his own salary. Another was seriously considering taking a job carrying less responsibility in his own company but based on the continent and paying three times the salary.

A research director now has a virtually flat salary structure amongst his senior staff with all earning £3,500 per year. The personal director of a US based multinational operating throughout Europe has his whole senior management salary structure thrown out of gear by legislative restrictions in the UK. To him British salaries are ridiculous.

It is not of course just managerial salaries which are now so depressed compared with continental rates. I spent the 1975-76 academic year, a visiting professor in Switzerland.

The German economy

From Lord Kaldor

Sir, Mr Derek Prag (December 30) asserts that all my criteria "measure welfare and well being and not the degree of socialism in West German economy". Welfare and well-being secured through social transfer expenditures are the essence of "socialist policies" as ordinarily understood; and so is workers' participation (the Webb's "industrial democracy") as a means of countering the alienation of the workers under a system of giant enterprises. In both these respects Germany is far ahead of Britain in the kind of Socialism which the British Labour movement has historically stood for—a far greater extent than the Continental Socialist parties.

It is nonsensical to suggest that there is any relevant difference between Britain and Germany in the matter of health, housing, Kiel and so on. In both countries they are financed by compulsory social insurance contributions on employers and workers. But whereas in Britain, according to the latest estimate of the CSO (*Economic Trends* November 1976, 1108) the rate of contributions expressed as a percentage of GNP at factor cost, amounts to 6.7 per cent (of which 3.7 per cent is paid by the employers) in Germany the figures are 13.5 per cent (of which 8.5 per cent is paid by the employers). Hence the compulsory transfer from the productive to the unproductive sectors of the community resulting from the welfare state are twice as great in relation to GNP in Germany as in Britain—which means that, on the economic two-figures test, Sir Keith Joseph, Mrs Thatcher and their friends, it is Germany, not Britain, which should be in the doghouse.

The same CSO publication also disposes of the myth that the burden of personal income tax is much greater in Britain than in Germany. Expressed as a percentage of GNP at factor cost the figures were practically identical in the two countries in 1974—the latest year for which figures are available—13.0 per cent in Britain and 12.7 per cent in Germany. The rate of marginal rates in Germany the top marginal rates are considerably lower than in Britain.

Finally, it is equally a myth to suggest that workers' participation in industry was first introduced by "Christian Democrats" (ie, Conservatives). Government was originally imposed by the occupying powers (on the suggestion of the British Labour Government) as a compromise solution between handing back the enterprises to Messrs Krupp, Thyssen and Co (whom the Germans wanted) and turning them into State enterprises (which the British preferred). It was the unforeseen success of this experiment which led to its extension to other industries, first on a minority basis and now on a parity basis.

The comparative absence of nationalized industries in Germany or in Sweden (despite an uninterrupted Socialist Government for over 40 years in the latter country)

Making education work

From Professor E. Stones

Sir, Rhodes Boyson, whose article you printed on December 30, is running true to form. Maximum assertion and minimum evidence coupled with a simplistic appreciation of the educational issues involved make it impossible even to begin a dialogue. I hope, however, that you will at some time consider the possibility of admitting someone to your columns to attempt a somewhat more reasoned presentation of the issues involved.

In the meantime may I be permitted one Boysonian? Our present economic, political, and industrial mess is a direct consequence of the fact that the present generation of political and industrial leaders were educated in the Gradgrind tradition extolled by Boyson and Co.

Yours faithfully,
E. STONES,
School of Education,
The University of Liverpool,
19 Abercromby Square,
Liverpool.
December 30.

Film industry pay

From Mr John Coots

Sir, The story which appeared in your issue of yesterday (December 29) about a 15.5 per cent pay rise to certain employees in the feature film industry needs considerable clarification.

There are seven unions engaged in film making. Six of them have voluntarily agreed by the social contract. The other—the Association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT)—

My pre-tax salary was three times my UK salary. The academic salary structure in the UK is now so flat that the professor in charge of a large academic department receives, after tax, about 20 per cent more than a lecturer at the top of his scale. This is little compensation for the considerable additional responsibility carried.

Finally, Sir, the additional nonsense of inflation proof pensions which Mr Prentice tried to draw our attention to by his resignation, should not be forgotten. My father is a retired schoolteacher receiving a teachers' pension and an old age pension. He worked hard for many years and deserves a comfortable retirement. But during the period October 1975 to October 1977, he will receive an increase from his pensions equivalent to about £1,000 per year.

My professional salary during the same period will have increased by £208. It will not take too many years of the present system of restraint for the retired schoolmaster to be given more by the state than the active professor receives in salary!

Yours faithfully,
C. J. CONSTABLE,
Professor, Operations Management and Business Policy,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield,
Bedford,
December 23.

reflects differences not so much in ideology as in the comparative efficiency of private enterprise. Private enterprises both in Germany and Sweden are efficiently run. In Britain—as the examples of ship building, marine engineering, machine tools, motor car production, aero engine production, etc, show—they are not.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge,
December 31.

From Sir Alec Randall
Sir, Lord Kaldor's letter (December 24) is incomplete; it does not give credit where it is due. I was in Germany soon after the end of the war; an unforgettable scene of destruction and human despair; people were starving, among the rubble of Berlin, Hamburg, Kiel and so on. In both countries they are financed by compulsory social insurance contributions on employers and workers. But whereas in Britain, according to the latest estimate of the CSO (*Economic Trends* November 1976, 1108) the rate of contributions expressed as a percentage of GNP at factor cost, amounts to 6.7 per cent (of which 3.7 per cent is paid by the employers) in Germany the figures are 13.5 per cent (of which 8.5 per cent is paid by the employers).

The present German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, was asked some few years ago by an interviewer on the BBC to what he attributed his country's prosperity and stability. He replied that first of all it was Ernest Bevin, Foreign Minister in the Labour Government, who, through his officials in the Control Commission got in touch with such trade unionists as could be found and in agreement with them restructured the German trade union system. "It reduced the number of trade unions", Chancellor Schmidt continued, "to 16 in all; you have, it is 100 or 200?". It made unofficial strikes illegal, prescribed a ballot or cooling-off period, and introduced measures of "workers participation". This was approved by the Free Democrats in coalition with the Social Democrats, and has not been revoked. Moreover, it deserves to be recalled, the Federal German Social Democratic Party, "Godesberg programme" of 1959, shed all totalitarianism, welcomed cooperation with religious bodies, was committed to the mixed economy, and under certain conditions accepted, one could say encouraged, private ownership. The electoral system, a form of proportional representation, proved to give a much fairer reflection of public opinion, and by the rule that the parties who failed to reach 5 per cent of the vote, should not have parliamentary seats, excluded both extremes, the National Democrats and the Communists.

These constitutional changes were made by the German Government independently, but fundamentally helped Germany to recently give to this country through the IMF, may be regarded as some return for the statesmanlike action taken by the Attlee-Bevin Government in regard to the reorganization of the trade unions.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX RANDALL,
9 Master Close,
Oxford,
Surrey.

refuse to recognize this policy and is in dispute with this Federation over the interpretation of cost of living clauses in its Agreement.

It is not true to say that the Department of Employment "approved" the 15.5 per cent award which is in such flagrant breach of the spirit and intention of the national wages policy voluntarily entered into between the Government and the TUC.

The Department has consistently ruled that the interpretation of specific provisions in the Agreement was a matter for negotiation between the parties. Unhappily ACTT has repeatedly refused to meet the employers on this issue.

It is also quite untrue to say that the employers have "misused" this Federation. This Federation has already paid its employees in full the amount which it (the Federation) believes to be due (10 per cent) which in itself has opened up yawning differentials between ACTT members and workers in the other six unions.

The disputed balance (a further 10 per cent) is being held in escrow pending the outcome of arbitration. However, ACTT will agree to this course of action either and has instead ordered widespread industrial action, in further breach of its agreements.

It is a matter of regret that rises of this magnitude escape the intention of the national incomes policy, apparently without comment from those who are supposed to be monitoring its operation.

JOHN COOTE,
Director-General,
Federation of Specialised Film Associations,
27 Soho Square, W1.
December 30.

Government and Opposition

From Lord Greenhill of Harrow

Sir, The plea in Sir Alastair Pilkington's letter today (January 4) that politicians should try to increase the "uniting forces" deserves strong support. Slavish adherence to the doctrine that it is the duty of an Opposition to oppose is matched in foolishness by the policy of government "by manifesto". In the latter case policies conceived in certain circumstances are uncompromisingly made to apply in totally different conditions in conflict with all the canons of good sense.

Sir Alastair pleads for compromise solutions better to serve the nation, though not the preferred solution of any. Where better could this wisdom be applied than in the field of devolution? As it is, in spite of the vital issues at stake, this question looks like being fought out on the usual basis of adversarial politics.

Yours,
DENIS GREENHILL,
25 Hamilton House,
Vicarage Gate, W8.
January 4.

Worker participation

From Mr Derrick Williams

Sir, You report (December 29) the Local Authority Associations as being opposed to local government employees serving as members of councils or their committees, and in particular quoted Mr Gervase Walker, the Chairman of the Association of County Councils' policy committees, as saying that employee participation in decision-making conflicts with "the British concept of local government as a democratic institution".

But the Education Act of 1944, a piece of modern legislation concerned essentially to secure the administration of the education service in local government and by democratic means, specifically requires local education authorities to appoint representatives of their teachers to membership of education committees, and for 30 years now such representatives have made valuable contributions to the policy decisions of local education committees.

Whether or not there is some real difference between teachers and other groups of local government employees, what is the attitude of the Local Authority Associations to teacher participation in decision-making? There is an issue here of fundamental importance to the education service of the country. The attempt made during the preparations for the reorganisation of local government in 1974 to abolish the statutory requirements for local education committees and their membership, and one trusts it will not be repeated, during the debate now developing between the Government and local authorities on the general principle of worker participation.

Yours faithfully,
DERICK WILLIAMS,
25 Redland Grove,
Redland,
Bristol,
December 30.

Christian names in 1976

From Mrs M. Brown

Sir, At the start of the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, Elizabeth was the name most frequently chosen by readers announcing the birth of their daughters in *The Times*. The analysis for 1976 shows further that James remained the most popular name for boys for the thirteenth year in succession.

James (1) 115 Emma (2) 109 William (3) 124 Elizabeth (4) 104 Edward (5) 115 Jane (6) 89 Alexander (7) 109 Louise (8) 63 Mary (9) 41 Sarah (10) 53 John (11) 101 Charles (12) 97 Robert (13) 84 Clare (14) 58 David (15) 80 Alexandra (16) 57 Catherine (17) 52

(The figures in parentheses indicate the position held in 1975.) The list of boys' names has changed little since last year, except that Robert has replaced Nicholas. Among girls, Charlotte and Catherine have proved more popular than Emma and Victoria. Two traditional favourites which increased their totals in 1976 were George for boys and Margaret for girls. Among the more unusual names chosen for girls were Astraea and Serenella.

The table of first names shows James once again heading the boys, while Emma retained the lead from Sarah as she did in 1975.

James (1) 115 Emma (2) 109 Thomas (3) 75 Sarah (4) 41 William (5) 62 Alexandra (6) 39 Alexander (7) 39 Edward (8) 61 Charlotte (9) 39 Nicholas (10) 56 Lucy (11) 39 David (12) 48 Elizabeth (13) 37 Robert (14) 46 Victoria (15) 32 Charles (16) 43 Alice (17) 32 Richard (18) 42 Katherine (19) 29

In the boys' list, David and Robert took over from Benjamin and Andrew. John increased his total considerably in 1976, and almost reached the final ten. Charlotte, Rachel and Alice ousted Rebecca, Emily and Joanna. Alice made remarkable strides last year, scoring more than twice her 1975 total.

An analysis of the figures for 1976 shows that there were 4,142 births announced in *The Times* of which 2,109 were boys and 2,033 were girls. The overall figure is very close to that of 1975, which was 4,277. The following summary shows the distribution of names in 1976:

One Two Three Four Five Total
Boys 348 887 376 599 3,033
Girls 348 887 376 599 3,033
As in 1975, the number of twins recorded was 52. Of the 1976 sets, 14 were boys, 14 were girls and 24 were mixed.

The adoptions totalled 36 (as against 49 in 1975) of which 17 were boys and 19 were girls. There were two sets of twins adopted in 1976.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BROWN,
7 Foxthorn Paddock,
Badger Hill,
York.
January 1.

ISRAEL'S NEWS HOUNDS

Israel has long been justly proud of its free press. It is not perfectly free, of course. There is military censorship which sometimes spills over into the political field. There is sometimes self-censorship by editors and journalists on issues which might damage Israel's international reputation, but even this is usually broken by the weekly *Ha'Olam Ha'Ze*, which is often called the Israeli *Private Eye* but whose readership and influence are proportionally much greater. There is discrimination to the extent that it is not possible for Israeli Arabs to publish an explicitly Arab nationalist paper (though the Communist press provides them with the next best thing) or for the Arab nationalist papers which are tolerated in occupied East Jerusalem to advocate explicitly the abolition of the

Israeli state. But it remains true, and is to Israel's credit, that most of the source material of her external critics is published legally inside the country. Ambassador Herzog made a fair point in the United Nations Security Council last November when he asked his Arab colleagues, "What would you all do for speeches if you didn't have the free unfettered Israeli press as a source?"

It is very sad, therefore, that the week that has seen the demise of the last free press in the Arab world (with the imposition of official censorship in Lebanon) has also seen the role of the Israeli press called in question after the tragic death of a member of the Israeli government. According to the suicide note he left on Monday, Mr Avraham Hefer decided to take his own life because for weeks and months he had been

"tortured, libelled and tormented" by unfounded allegations in the press that he was involved in large-scale fraud. "You journalists killed him," was the understandable retort of his family to reporters demanding comment on his death. Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, said at the funeral yesterday that his death should serve as a warning "to all who pass judgment on others without proof".

Journalists often do need reminding that those whom they write about, like Richard II, "feel want, taste grief, need friends". Libel laws, which are weaker in Israel than here, are an inadequate defence; and Truman's well-known dictum about the heat in the kitchen is too callous to be repeated over a man's grave. The right answer can hardly be a less free press; but it should be, at least in part, a more responsible one.

THE COUNTER-FABIANS

The Institute of Economic Affairs has been surrounded by controversy since its formation twenty years ago. That is as it should have been, since its strategic purpose, or at least that of its chief entrepreneurs, has been to challenge by public argument the whole collectivist ethos that became conventional among intellectuals in the post-war era.

The Institute celebrates its first two decades of activity, even if twenty-five years would be a more usual jubilee, by publishing a retrospective synopsis of its discussions and publications (*Not from Benevolence*... by Ralph Harris and Arthur Seldon). It has succeeded in attracting many distinguished contributors to its list of authors and in encouraging examination of possible departures in economic and social policy which fewer people would now condemn as unrealistic and misanthropic than when they first appeared.

The natural comparison, when assessing the IEA, is not with purely scholarly academic institutions such as the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, but with the Fabian Society, which also sought by intelligent pamphleteering to win hearts and minds to a different conception of the role of government in society. Although the IEA must still be judged a long way from achieving the historic influence of the Fabians, whose mark is clearly visible in the reflexes of almost every government in the world, it has the

satisfaction of being on the offensive and of expanding its influence while the Fabians are but a shadow of their former selves.

Perhaps the most enduring achievement of the IEA so far will turn out to have been to make government itself a potential object of study, with its quota of failures, contradictions and weaknesses, rather than always being the great "I am" with which the economist and social critic has for too long in Britain tended to identify himself as the agent rather than the object of reform.

The experience of collectivism in a free society has certainly suggested that the potentialities of government as an instrument of social justice are severely limited. The greater the demands that are made on government, the further does it fail to satisfy expectations. Nor is this mainly because of any avoidable failure of policies or management. It arises directly from the irreconcilable nature of the Utopian demands made by rival interest groups on limited national resources.

As the process of allocating scarce resources becomes more and more politicized, disappointments which were previously directed without much effect at "the facts of life" or the "injustices of capitalism" or the "luck of the draw" become highly focused grievances against government—any government—itself. This process can only lead to an anarchic collapse of gov-

ernment in the face of the rival interest groups or to an authoritarian suspension of the right to express grievances, unless a greater area of national economic and social life is carefully and deliberately returned to non-political arbitrament by the market.

In exploring how this third alternative can sensibly be undertaken the IEA has illuminated an avenue which increasingly appears more attractive from the point of view of the ordinary individual citizen than either of the other two. But, if the IEA is to win the war of ideas, it will need to convey more clearly than it has so far that to extol the benign potential of markets is not the same as to defend capitalism and that to point to the deficiencies of state power is not the same as to condemn the humane impulses of socialism.

Adam Smith himself wrote *The Wealth of Nations* as an attack on the malignancy of the natural alliance between state power and commercial vested interests; and some among the IEA's own authors have even argued the corollary, namely that there is a natural alliance—on behalf of individual sovereignty over vested interests in the ballot box, the market place and the work-place—between the advocates of free markets and the advocates of common (but not state) ownership. In this way the IEA can rid itself of the stigma of itself being an apologist for vested interests.

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

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Reserves fall by \$1,027m but figures show first signs that tide has turned

By David Blake

Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currency fell by \$1,027m in December, taking them down to \$4,129m. But, although the fall in reserves leaves them at their lowest level in recent years, the December figures show the first signs that the tide has turned in the authorities' efforts to restore the United Kingdom's external position. The reserves are likely to be boosted next week by a drawing of \$1,150m from the International Monetary Fund and a \$500m swap from the United States.

The December drop was more than accounted for by the repayment of \$1,545m to the nine industrial countries which gave Britain the right to borrow up to \$5,300m during the summer.

If this repayment is excluded there are clear signs that the Bank of England was able to buy back from the foreign exchange markets some of the currency which it had sold earlier in the year in an effort to prop up the pound's value. The sum of \$444m was taken in this way.

Foreign exchange markets were mildly impressed by the reserve figures. The pound eased upwards during the day to close at \$1.710, up a quarter of a cent. Its effective depreciation was 43.9 per cent, down 0.2 per cent on the day.

Two special items affected the December figures apart from the repayment of the stand-by facility. The first was that the United Kingdom repaid \$175m of interest owed to the United States and Canada on loans taken out just after the last war. The second was borrowing abroad of \$102m by nationalised industries.

This borrowing was carried out under a system in which the nationalised industries do not have to bear the loss they

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury yesterday:

End of period	\$m	£m	Change in month
1971	6,582	2,526	
1972	5,646	2,526	
1973	4,876	2,787	
1974	6,789	2,583	
1975	5,429	2,063	
Oct	5,713	2,749	-145
Nov	5,806	2,775	-148
Dec	5,429	2,063	-107
1976			
Jan	6,785	3,944	+1,358
Feb	7,024	3,468	+230
March	5,905	3,082	-1,119
April	4,848	2,633	-1,057
May	5,423	3,083	+575
June	5,312	2,976	-111
July	5,370	3,010	-58
Aug	5,028	2,831	-341
Sept	5,158	3,092	+129
Oct	4,703	2,985	-455
Nov	5,156	3,118	+453
Dec	4,129	2,063	-1,027

may incur from any fall in the pound's value.

However, the borrowing was almost certainly outweighed by the need for the United Kingdom to finance its deficit on current account, which presumably imposed a strain on reserves in December.

In November, the current account deficit was \$310m. During December, the pound rose by 5 cents to \$1.70. This reflects the Bank of England's policy of trying to smooth out fluctuations in the reserves and maintain Britain's competitive position.

This year the Bank will have to tread a careful path. It must avoid putting the pound's credibility at risk, but it must also allow value to rise if this becomes necessary to compensate for the United Kingdom's inflation rate.

Although the December reserve figures show some encouragement for the authorities, 1976 as a whole was a very bad one for the reserves. They fell from a peak of \$7,024m in February, when they were boosted by the United Kingdom's 1975 borrowing from the International Monetary Fund.

Rebuilding them to a more acceptable level is likely to be high on the authorities' list of priorities. At present they are not even large enough to cover one month's import bill.

The authorities also remain keen to protect the reserves from the necessity of dealing with any sudden strain on the pound through a sudden outflow of funds making up the so-called "sterling balances".

Mr Teichiro Morinaga, Governor of the Bank of Japan, said yesterday that final agreement on an international scheme to do this is unlikely to be reached at next Monday's Basic meeting of central bank governors.

Any international support scheme would pose a number of technical problems where views are hard to reconcile.

In particular, the United Kingdom may want the scheme to cover all the official sterling holdings, which total over \$4,000m, while a number of other countries would prefer to restrict it to a smaller sum in the range of \$2,000m.

There is also the question of what to do with the private holdings of sterling by overseas creditors, and technical details must be settled on how money should be raised if it is needed.

One suggestion, believed to have been considered by the Bank for International Settlements, should raise money in its own name in the Euro-market.

Officials in London stress that all these problems are about the way in which a support scheme should operate. There is no belief that the agreement on the principle of setting up a scheme.



Mr Alan Law: Opposition a complete success.

Spy in the cab 'victory' for union

By Christopher Thomas

Lorry drivers are claiming victory in their continuing opposition to tachographs, dubbed "spies in the cab". Action by drivers in Birmingham, scheduled to begin two days ago, was called off at the last minute.

The drivers had intended to refuse to offload any vehicle fitted with a tachograph, but the move was suspended after Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said he had no intention of enforcing the installation of the devices which measure distance and record what is happening in the cab.

Despite EEC regulations confirming the use of tachographs, Mr Rodgers has said that he would prefer them not to be used in Britain, and is backing an initiative by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for an EEC inquiry into the United Kingdom case.

Mr Alan Law, TGWU Midlands trade group secretary, representing thousands of drivers, claimed victory in the campaign against the tachographs.

Shell/Esso sign outline pact on North Sea participation

By Roger Vielvoys

Shell and Esso, the most vigorous opponents of the Government's plans for taking a majority 51 per cent in commercial oil discoveries in the North Sea, yesterday formally signed an outline participation agreement that gives them access to all their offshore production in the United Kingdom. The two companies originally opposed the Government's participation objectives because they claimed they would need all the oil they produced from the North Sea to service their extensive United Kingdom refining and marketing.

But Mr Peter Baxendale, a managing director of the Royal Dutch Shell group and chairman of Shell UK, said yesterday that the group now felt able to comply with government policy on a voluntary basis as the concept of participation had changed radically.

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, described the memorandum of principles, which will be turned into a formal agreement by March 31, as a "form of planning agreement". Under the agreement Shell and Esso have granted an option to BIOC to acquire 51 per cent of the group's offshore

production, but to sell back to the companies at the same price sufficient North Sea crude to support their United Kingdom refining.

It will also sell back North Sea crude that can be exchanged for quantities of heavier crudes from foreign sources so that the companies can produce the right mix of oils needed.

Mr Baxendale said that Shell's refining requirements this year would be 20 million tons of crude oil, of which three million would come from the North Sea.

General Accident's car rates go up 12pc

By John Brennan

Insurance Correspondent

The cost of motor insurance could fall in real terms this year as the leading insurance groups plan premium rate increases well below the current rate of claims inflation.

General Accident, which holds the largest share of the market, among the composite insurance groups, with more than a million policies in force covering 13 million vehicles, yesterday announced its first premium increase for more than a year. Premiums for private cars will rise 12 per cent and commercial vehicles by 14 per cent, from February 1. But this increase, putting GA among the top five most expensive motor insurance companies, falls short of the rate of increase in claims costs, now running at more than 15 per cent a year.

GA's increase, although the first to be announced this year, comes after a decision by the Prudential—which has not been made public—to restrict its rate increase to an average of 5 per cent from January 1 as part of a "conscious decision to go for more United Kingdom motor business".

This move is unlikely to herald a rate war, however, as the Prudential, which insures some 500,000 motorists, put through rate increases totalling 42 per cent in 1975 and is one of the more expensive of the motor insurers. It now feels able to "let the rest of the market overtake" in premium terms this year.

A steady flow of rate increases are expected from the other major motor insurers in the coming months. And both Guardian Royal Exchange and Eagle Star, rated second and third behind GA in the size of their motor business with around a million and just under 900,000 policies in force respectively, are both reviewing their charges. When their new rates are set, increases of around 10 per cent are widely expected. Similar or slightly lower changes are expected from groups such as Phoenix, Commercial Union and Sun Alliance, which have held premiums steady for some time.

A clear pattern of greater selectivity in rating charges is emerging throughout the industry, with disproportionate increases in rates for commercial vehicles where charges have lagged behind claim costs. Lloyd's underwriters, who insure a fifth of private motorists in Britain and 13 per cent of the total motor market, have traditionally been more selective than the companies. Unlike the companies, which made underwriting losses on their motor accounts in three of the past six years, and are unlikely to have achieved more than break-even in 1976, Lloyd's has been in profit on motor underwriting for all but one of the past 30 years.

Industrial investment intentions less buoyant

By Maurice Corina

Some decline in business confidence as reflected by the results of the latest government survey of investment intentions, which have prompted a revision of capital spending forecasts by manufacturers in the year ahead.

The Department of Industry reported yesterday that investment intentions for 1977 are 20 per cent higher than in 1976, compared with 1976, the new projection will be for a 10 to 15 per cent rise in volume terms (measured in 1970 prices).

The suggested upswing of up to 15 per cent is still a headsome rise and a first cut at intentions for next year indicate a similar rise in 1978 over 1977.

Spending on modernisation of factories and machinery has been at a low level and even with a sustained growth as indicated the magnitude will only be comparable with the expenditures of 1970 and 1974 by next year.

At the same time, the Chancellor's recent forecast for a 19 per cent rise in private manufacturing, between the second halves of 1976 and 1977,

Year	Manufacturing expenditure (£m at 1970 prices)
1970	1,190
1971	1,191
1972	1,739
1973	1,872
1974	2,024
1975	1,737
1976	1,840
1977	1,880

* Rounded estimates.

may look a little too optimistic. In current price terms, the level of manufacturing expenditure on the revised DoI projection, will be about £5,000m in 1977 with upwards of £6,000m in 1978.

The revised estimate of spending this year is based on questionnaire sent out at the end of October but received in November and the first half of December when the International Monetary Fund loan negotiations were in progress and uncertainty about the Chancellor's action was high.

This revision bears out the warning from the Confederation of British Industry, which had also received optimistic results in its own trends inquiry, that an investment boom in 1977 could not be taken for granted.

Junta's economic strategy upset by severe financial crisis Chile company failures spark run on savings

Santiago, Chile, Jan 5.—A major financial crisis has upset the economic strategy of the military government, which has brought the military government's entire economic strategy into question only days after the World Bank voted the country a \$60m (£35.3m) loan, in the confidence that its policies were fundamentally sound.

At least six private investment companies have gone bankrupt since the beginning of December. Two executives of one have been arrested on charges of fraud. The board of directors of another defaulting company is composed of prominent civilian supporters of the military regime.

Observers believe the companies will not be able to recover their loans in time, and foresee more bankruptcies.

When the first company Manuel Rodriguez collapsed in December leaving \$1m debts, thousands of small investors panicked, and began to withdraw their money.

Yesterday infuriated savers gathered outside the head office of the Famsa company in Santiago, demanding their money. The board of directors of the now bankrupt company included such well-known figures as Señor Javier Leturia, prominent in the Chilean money movement, created by the Junta to promote civilian support for the regime, and Señor Tomas Irazabal, a top official in the Labour Ministry, who has been forced to resign.

Señor Eugenio Lagos and

Señor Enrique Kasempfer, the managing director of Commercial Citron, which specialised in financing car sales, have been under arrest since late December on charges of fraud.

This particular company was closely related to a number of others which have either gone bankrupt or are in serious difficulties.

The gravity of the situation may compel the Government to intervene further, by taking over the company's assets and trying to shore up the shaky system.

Such a move would go against the regime's commitment to reduce government intervention in the economy to a minimum.—Inter-Press Service.

Shift in deposits helps bank curbs

By Christopher Wilkins

With borrowing pressures slackening, banks have taken significant steps to cut back their interest-bearing resources to within the limits allowed under the Bank of England's supplementary special deposit scheme, known as the "corset".

Statistics released by the Bank of England yesterday show that the margin by which the banks were exceeding their permitted growth in the scheme was almost eliminated in the period after its introduction on November 18.

The corset, introduced as a device to control the inflow of deposits into banks and hence the money supply, allows banks to expand their interest-bearing resources by 3 per cent over a six-month period.

When the scheme was introduced, these resources had already grown from the base figure by 6.2 per cent for the banking system as a whole and

by almost 10 per cent for the clearing banks.

By December 8 the growth for the banking system overall had been pruned back to 3.7 per cent, while for the clearing banks it was down to about 6 per cent. To meet the target banks will have to reduce their interest-bearing deposits by about £200m by the spring.

As far as the clearing banks are concerned the key factor in the reduction, as revealed in separately published figures, has been a shift from interest-bearing deposits to current accounts. Time deposits dropped by £284m, while sight deposits grew by £362m, giving an overall increase in deposits of £78m.

The clearers offer no ready explanation for the increase in current account holdings, which have been relatively static recently, although the reduction of time deposits may partly be explained by a drawing down of funds by customers to finance gift purchases.

But the clearers have been

taking other measures to re-trench. They sold £95m worth of gilt and cut back lending to local authorities by £151m so as to release resources and reduce dependence on interest-bearing deposits.

They are also getting some help from a lower level of borrowing demand. Lending to the United Kingdom private sector during the period dropped by £8m. That was less than might have been expected on seasonal grounds; but the underlying implied rate of growth of about 5.5 per cent was well below the previous month's £200m.

There was also an £86m fall in commercial bill holdings. The reduction is being taken as evidence confirming the banks' earlier view that some commercial borrowing money they did not need during October and early November in anticipation of the corset scheme.

The clearers have also been adopting measures to ration lending to non-priority borrowers.


BANK FIGURES

The following are the figures for eligible liabilities and reserve assets ratios of United Kingdom banks released by the Bank of England today:

At mid-month	Eligible liabilities (£m)	Reserve assets (£m)	Ratio
1976			
Nov	33,453	4.9	15.2
Dec	33,349	4.8	15.1
1977			
Jan	33,308	0.2	15.4
Feb	33,108	0.9	15.8
Mar	33,740	8.6	15.2
Apr	34,029	11.6	15.2
May	34,989	13.3	14.2
Jun	35,181	18.2	15.1
Jul	36,793	22.4	16.4
Aug	36,613	19.9	14.4
Oct	37,246	25.6	13.9
Nov	36,990	12.8	13.8

The eligible liabilities of the banking system as a whole—essentially sterling deposits—fell by over £350m during the period, pointing to a lower rate of growth in the money supply.

Financial Editor, page 17



Matthew Brown & COMPANY LIMITED
Lion Brewery Blackburn

Extract from the Report and Accounts to 2nd October, 1976.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE—in £'000	1976	1975
Turnover	15,657	11,428
Trading profit	3,144	2,418
Depreciation	(375)	(268)
Interest payable	(195)	(57)
Profit/(loss) on property disposals	26	(6)
Profit before tax	2,600	2,085
Profit after tax	1,257	999
Earnings per share	8.94p	7.07p
Dividends per share (gross)	5.40p	4.32p

1976—53 weeks compared with 1975—52 weeks.

Points made by the Chairman, Mr. Cyril Ainscough in mid-December '76.

- * Turnover up 37%; trading profit up 30%; pre-tax profit up 34%; earnings per share up 26%; total dividends up 25%.
- * Contributions from 1975 purchase of Worthington Brewery Company Limited are exceeding original expectations.
- * Balance sheet strengthened by recent rights issue which will provide the means to expand sales of championship winning Slemon lager in 1977.
- * Cautious optimism for increased profits in 1977 is encouraged by volume of sales thus far being well maintained.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 152.86 +0.53
The FT index: 362.7 +2.1

Rises

BH South	7p to 97p
Daily Mail	10p to 225p
Essex	10p to 285p
Hammerson 'A'	15p to 325p
Harrison Bros	13p to 400p
Hill, C. Bristol	18p to 94p
Imp Chem Ind	4p to 350p

Falls

Anglo Am Corp	10p to 230p
Baggeridge Bk	1p to 21p
Burns Dean	2p to 37p
Essex Gold	4p to 75p
Health CE	8p to 45p
Internat Inv	21p to 53p
Jardine M'eson	10p to 345p
Macpherson, D.	3p to 40p
McLeod Russell	5p to 125p
Mount Lyall	5p to 20p
Newman Ind	4p to 34p
Reed	15p to 192p
Travis & Arnold	6p to 83p
WGI	6p to 82p

THE POUND

Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.62 1.57
Austria Sch	30.00 28.00
Belgium F	63.00 60.00
Canada \$	1.76 1.71
Denmark Kr	16.25 15.84
Finland Mk	6.60 6.35
France F	8.68 8.35
Germany DM	4.18 3.96
Greece Dr	74.00 70.00
Hongkong \$	8.30 7.85
Italy L	1545.00 1478.00
Japan Y	324.00 309.00
Netherlands G	4.35 4.13
Norway Kr	9.11 8.75
Portugal Esc	60.25 58.25
S Africa Rd	1.94 1.80
Spain Pes	119.00 113.50
Sweden Kr	7.34 6.98
Switzerland Fr	4.35 4.13
US \$	1.75 1.70
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00 32.50

Gold lost \$1.75 an ounce to \$133.75.

SDR-S was 1.16508 on Wednesday

Commodities: Reuter's Index was at 1580.1 (previous 1584.5).

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Strike stops all production of Massey tractors

By Clifford Webb

Strike pickets at Massey Ferguson's Coventry plant have stopped all tractor production and prevented 600 office staff from entering the adjoining headquarters building. More than 2,200 workers were on strike or laid off last night.

A company spokesman said: "The unofficial strike which began before Christmas is now costing us a retail sales loss of £1.5m a day."

The strike began when the company stopped payment for one shift on the new tractor cab assembly line, claiming that the 136 men were not working hard enough.

The strike has since spread to all 1,150 assembly workers and more than 1,000 other workers have been laid off.

Our Industrial Staff writes: In summer 1975 a six-week pay strike at the plant was settled only after court actions for possession of the factory after the workforce blockaded the plant.

THE WELLCOME FOUNDATION LIMITED

Report for the year ended 28 August, 1976.

	1975-6	1974-5
Capital employed	£177,858,000	£148,893,000
Group sales	£290,238,000	£212,887,000
Profit before tax	£41,412,000	£26,214,000
Profit after tax and before extraordinary items	£19,804,000	£11,024,000
Expenditure on research and development	£23,062,000	£15,992,000

I am happy to be able to report continuing progress on a broad front," says Mr A. A. Gray, Chairman of The Wellcome Foundation Limited, in his annual review. "Sales have increased in all four of our operating regions and the total, amounting to £290 million, is an increase of 36% over the previous year."

"Profits before tax were £41 million. This increase has been achieved in the face of rising costs for raw materials and wages, by no means all of which can be recovered in prices which, in our industry, are generally subject to outside control."

"Expenditure on research and development rose to £23 million, against £16 million in the previous year, giving renewed evidence of our determination to expand this fundamental work in real terms. Of the £20 million profit after tax, once again a high proportion, 80%, has been retained in the business to finance future expansion."

"Once again approximately 85% of sales to third parties were outside the United Kingdom. Direct exports rose from £44 million to £54 million. The company gained the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1976, the only major pharmaceutical company to win the Award."

"Our operations in the United States are a most important part of the total group and have provided an increasing stream of dollar remittances to the United Kingdom balance of payments."

"Our retained profits over the last five years have amounted to £48 million compared to an increase of only £25 million in net group debt. These factors, together with a significant reduction of assets within the Group, have enabled us to finance the very rapid expansion of our business."

"This is my last annual report before retiring as Chairman of The Wellcome Foundation Limited. I feel confident that, in any manageable economic circumstances, I can forecast further progress under the leadership of Mr A. J. Shepperd as the new Chairman and Chief Executive."

The Wellcome Foundation Limited is an international group of pharmaceutical and chemical companies with headquarters in the United Kingdom. Under the will of Sir Henry Wellcome, all distributions received by the trustees who are the sole shareholders are applied by them to the support of medical and veterinary research in universities and hospitals throughout the world.



Efforts to halt strike at Cammell Laird yard

By R. W. Shakespeare

Hopes of settling the strike by 450 workers at the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead by the weekend seem to rest on continuing talks between leaders of the industry's employers' association and national officers of the Boilermakers' Union.

The strike could make 4,000 other workers idle. It began on Tuesday over wage demands which, the company claims, break the Government's pay code.

But the strikers maintain that the management has gone back on a deal made 18 months ago and withdrawn a

£2-a-week allowance due to some workers.

Yesterday a management spokesman said: "For the moment the rest of the labour force is working normally. It is difficult to say how long this can continue. The strike action is bound to lead to a progressive rundown because the men involved are key workers."

"There is no picketing of the yard and, as far as we know, no local meetings have been arranged. But the London offices of the Shipbuilders' and Ship Repairers' Association are in constant touch with the situation and are also in touch with national officers of the union."

Sir David Barritt, the company's chairman, has given warning that, although the yard has work until the end of this year, new orders are scarce and competition fierce. The yard is working on 12 ships—a destroyer and 11 bulk carriers.

The trouble with the boilermakers appears to arise from an agreement the management tried to negotiate with the Boilermakers' Union during 1975. This involved proposals for more flexible working arrangements and the retraining of some workers for fresh jobs.

While the agreement was being discussed the management says, some men

who agreed to retraining were paid an allowance of £2 a week. The company claims the full agreement was later rejected by a mass meeting of boilermakers and, before it could be renegotiated, the Government's pay policy was announced.

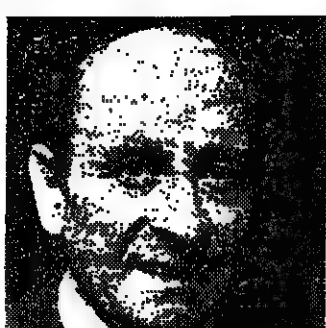
Because the increases could not be paid and a new agreement could not be renegotiated, the "temporary allowances" had to be withdrawn and the company's plans to push ahead with its flexibility policy abandoned.

The men gave notice of their intention to strike two weeks ago, maintaining that the allowances did not breach the pay code.

In brief

Union seeks meeting on jobs at Burtons

Union leaders are demanding an early meeting with Mr Cyril Spencer, the new chief executive of the Burton tailoring group, to clear up fears about redundancies. The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers has asked for clarification of some statements attributed to the group, suggesting that "a further change in policy is about to take place".



Mr Cyril Spencer.

Mr John Flood, national officer of the union's menswear section, called for a statement of intent from the company without delay. He said that the continued shift in policy, which had been a prominent feature of the group's operations over the past five years, should be brought to an end.

USDAW would insist on maximum consultation about any changes.

Private homebuilders see continued slump

Prospects for private homebuilders this year were the worst since the 1974 slump when only 105,000 new private houses were started, Mr Tony Cavanaugh, new president of the House of Builders' Federation, said in London yesterday.

"It is questionable whether that depressing low total will be greatly exceeded during 1977," said Mr Cavanaugh. "Indeed some builders are already forecasting that fewer than

100,000 new private houses will be started in the 12 months that end this year, a factor affecting confidence was uncertainty over the availability of mortgages. The federation would regret any increase in the existing 12 per cent mortgage rate but a rise in rates was preferable to a mortgage famine.

Oil output record

World oil output hit a record 57.2 million barrels a day last year, thanks to economic recovery by the industrialized nations, sockpiling in front of the Opec new year price rises, and improved production by the communist bloc. Saudi output of 8.6 million barrels a day helped the Arabs to displace America as the second largest producer.

German jobless again top million mark

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Jan 5. West German unemployment topped the million mark again last month, rising by 105,200 to 1,089,000—4.8 per cent of the working population.

Although there were about 135,000 fewer unemployed than at the end of December 1975, the average over the whole of 1976 varied little from 1975.

Average unemployment fell 13,900 last year to 1,060,300—

4.6 per cent of the working population—against 4.7 per cent in 1975.

One statistic not published was the decline in the foreign labour force, which had fallen to about 1.94 million at the beginning of December from its record of 2.5 million in December 1975.

If Germany had not been able to "export" more than half a million "guest workers" over the past three years, the

PO-suppliers partnership urged to boost telephone equipment exports

By Malcolm Brown

Establishment of a new export corporation whose prime job would be the overseas marketing of the so-called System X, the next generation of telephone switching equipment, will be discussed by the Post Office and its main telecommunications equipment suppliers within a few weeks.

Setting up such a body is the main recommendation of a report prepared by Sir Raymond Brown, Britain's former chief arms salesman, in the first of a series of examinations of the export potential of nationalized industry suppliers.

The report's recommendations were warmly welcomed at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, according to Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office.

In addition to an export corporation Sir Raymond suggests that Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, should have talks with Cable and Wireless, International Aeradio and Milbark Technical Services, the three publicly owned consulting bodies in the field, to find how formal links could be set up both among them, and with the proposed new corporation.

The report suggests that in the longer run there should be a rationalization of the three to provide a strong, unified consultancy.

"The need is to establish and execute a clear, detailed and agreed export marketing strategy for the exchange equipment under development. This can only be fully achieved with the active support and commitment of the Post Office."

The report suggests that the corporation's board should be headed by a part-time chairman, accountable to the Secretary of State for Industry. It would consist of a full-time chief executive and part-time representatives of the Post Office, the manufacturing companies, the publicly owned overseas consultancies and the National Enterprise Board.

Sir Raymond says he is aware of the concern of the manufacturing companies that the Post Office, the manufacturing companies, the publicly owned overseas consultancies and the National Enterprise Board.

Exports plan for paper plant trade

Mr Edward Hunt, chairman of the British Paper Machinery Makers' Association, called last night for a "sales package", embracing equipment, finance and technology, to increase exports.

Addressing the association's annual dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London, Mr Hunt said: "Future trends of our overseas business are likely to be from the developing nations."

Decision expected soon on calls for inquiry into MFC

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Ministers are examining evidence which could lead to an investigation of the affairs of Maritime Freight Carriers, the Israeli-American shipping company, after a report by the House of Commons Select Committee on the subject.

Mr Clifton Davis, Under Secretary of State for Trade, and departmental officials, are studying information from employees of MFC's principal British subsidiary, IFR Services, and a decision on an inquiry is expected within a few weeks.

Earlier this year, at the height of MFC's difficulties, Mr Davis rejected an investigation of MFC or its British-registered subsidiary, Swan Maritime, owned jointly with Swan Hunter Shipbuilders, which is now being wound up.

Mr Davis said then that there were no grounds for an investigation.

A second request was made to Mr Davis by Mr Geoffrey

Finsberg, Conservative MP for Hampstead, Mr Finsberg, who would not identify the constituents involved, said: "As a result of my intervention certain statements have been made by two of my constituents to officials of the Department of Trade on the affairs of two of MFC's British companies."

MFC operated on a complicated financial basis with many interlocking companies in a closely interlocking structure. It was a substantial customer of British shipbuilders.

The group's withdrawal has now been virtually completed with the successful sale of a tanker built by Swan Hunter to Swan Maritime's account and Scotland of one of its tankers, being completed at Scott Lithgow's yard.

The business deals of MFC's co-founders, Captain Mita Brenner and Mr Yacov Meridor, are being scrutinized by the American Securities and Exchange Commission.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Threat to mining industry in the South-west

From Mr Paul Ashton

Sir, As a metallurgical mining engineering undergraduate my worst fears for this country, which only a decade ago still seemed to be booming, were realized when the Government announced that some industrial development grants for the South-west were to be axed. In particular I refer to the direct consequences these cuts will have on the locally and nationally important tin mining industry.

Any mine accountant, the world over, will tell you that a mine exists on a precarious balance between an uncontrollable metal price which is the only source of income, and escalating costs of labour and materials. These last two factors are increasingly dependent upon a constant development programme which, if cut back, will have two main effects.

First, and at this time of economic crisis the most important, lack of development may endanger the jobs of many skilled and semi-skilled mine employees and so also many more people who provide secondary services to the mine and its staff.

And, secondly, if no development takes place then the South-west will lose its credibility as a region where major industrial development from Cornwall is still considered viable.

Two new tin mines have

been started in Cornwall in the past seven years and both have needed enormous capital involvement by each of the two major mining finance houses that have overseen the projects. If big fish like these in the capital expenditure tank are scared away because the Government shirks its responsibilities towards the South-west then there is little hope for the Cornish people and the country as a whole.

United Kingdom industry needs help from both the City and abroad but surely no one will blame the Cornish companies if all involvement is going to do is cost them large sums of money. Development aid is a must for industrial stability at this time. After all, the slave who received over 100 tons of gold from the master made nothing, but the one who received 10 made a further 10.

Thus, looking at the Government's lack of interest in the mining industry as a whole I feel the thought of leaving this diseased country and its government as well as many of my apathetic countrymen. I hope to work in Australia or Canada where the countries' leaders support the mining industry at a time of great economic crisis.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL ASHTON,
Camborne School of Mines, Camborne, Cornwall, December 16.

Eradicating pension fund 'abuses'

From Mr Roy A. Grantham

Sir, It was as disconcerting as it was depressing to read Maurice Corina's report (December 14) of the fears expressed by industrialists because of the Government's proposals on pension fund trusteeship.

The report implies that the investment decisions of superannuation funds have been satisfactory when decided by employers, whereas in fact, investment decisions are based on advice by experts in the field. We only wish that our members, whose funds have been damaged by rash investment in property and secondary banks, had had the advantage of this superior investment decision-making which, the article implies, currently obtains.

Our members who are pension fund trustees, like management pension fund trustees, have to take full account of the advice that they are given. That advice is not always as good as it should be.

The history of superannuation funds shows that many funds administered by management trustees have used honest and sound sources of income to reduce employer contributions; in many cases to below that of the employees.

A major purpose of trades union trustees will be to ensure that abuses are eradicated to the benefit of the fund. Yours faithfully,
ROY A. GRANTHAM,
General Secretary, Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical & Computer Staff, 22 Worpole Road, London SW19 4DF.

Remedy for pilfering?

From Miss Peggy D. Stamp

Sir, Reference severe pilferage from stores and shops, surely the answer is for additional staff to be employed with a return to some counter service.

The vast sums of money being lost would easily cover the cost of extra labour and to a small extent alleviate the unemployment problem.

The approach to be taken by the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops seems a negative one if they are willing to accept pilferages of £500m a year.

More positive thinking than this is required to reduce this national scourge. Yours truly,
PEGGY D. STAMP,
6 The Park, Gt Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

Appointments Vacant also on page 10

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT AND PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for the Chair of Mechanical Engineering and Headship of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, which becomes vacant at the end of the present session following the retirement of Professor J. M. Zarek. The person appointed should have a strong commitment to education and engineering for service in British industry; to the present undergraduate course of four years (including a year in industry), and to the development of short post-graduate courses. A proven record in research is important and a research interest consistent with those already in the department would be an advantage.

Salary, in the professorial range, will be not less than £8,106 p.a., with USS benefits.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Registrar (LFC) University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH, or Dr J. G. Cullford 71281 Ext. 452. Applications, in the form of a curriculum vitae, together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to the same address by 28 February 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

VACANCY

ADVERT. REF. VC-A-15
POST: DEPUTY BURSAR

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Deputy Bursar in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Qualifications: (a) Membership of any of the following accounting bodies: (i) Chartered Accountants, (ii) Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, (iii) Institute of Accountants, (iv) Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, (v) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland, (vi) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, (vii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in South Africa, (viii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in India, (ix) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Pakistan, (x) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Bangladesh, (xi) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Sri Lanka, (xii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ceylon, (xiii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malaya, (xiv) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Singapore, (xv) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Hong Kong, (xvi) Institute of Chartered Accountants in New Zealand, (xvii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, (xviii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Canada, (xix) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the United States of America, (xx) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Mexico, (xxi) Institute of Chartered Accountants in Central America, (xxii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the Caribbean, (xxiii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the South Pacific, (xxiv) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the Middle East, (xxv) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the Far East, (xxvi) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the Indian subcontinent, (xxvii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the Malay Peninsula, (xxviii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the Indonesian Archipelago, (xxix) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the Philippines, (xxx) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the East Indies, (xxxi) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the South East Asia, (xxxii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the South Pacific, (xxxiii) Institute of Chartered Accountants in the South East Asia, (xxxiv) Institute of 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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

An omission from Sir Harold's team

The City has been looking at the prospect of Sir Harold Wilson and his committee investigating its affairs. Indeed, it welcomes such an inquiry, if it serves to destroy dangerous poppies. The financial sector is up and down, and it is the price that must be paid for the success of bank and insurance company nationalisation to be removed.

Moreover, most people in the financial community, having overcome the initial shock, firmly believe that Sir Harold will, as Lord Stansfeld put it recently, conduct his study "on an objective and non-political basis". The hope is that this committee will make a real contribution to the future structure of our financial system for the same way that the Radcliffe Committee did nearly 20 years ago.

That said, there will be some unhappiness about the composition of the committee. There should have been someone in the same way that the Radcliffe Committee did nearly 20 years ago.

It is a notable omission and one which the committee may regret as it comes to terms with the complexity of its subject. One is bound, for example, to contrast the lack of any market specialist with the inclusion of four academics, hopefully people who are not unaware of the realities of business life.

shortage if bank lending rates are to fall in line with M.L.R. That might mean a repayment of special deposits, or, at the very least, another deferral of the payment due at the end of this month. The more successful the authorities are in selling gilts, the more the relief will be needed.

Stock markets

Letting in the foreigners

The good news to start the New Year for those with the New York Stock Exchange is that the NYSE is about to reconsider the issue of the admission of foreigners.

But whether this is a move of any great significance or simply a token gesture to the Securities and Exchange Commission remains to be seen. For it appears that any moves to remove the obstacles to overseas membership could run into some not inconsiderable problems.

In particular, there would be the whole issue of the type of overseas membership to be admitted. Hard-pressed London stock brokers are not expected to be high up the list of those knocking at New York's door. Those who would probably want to be first over the threshold would be the major European and Japanese commercial banks. And that would be precisely where the real problems start since their United States counterparts are currently denied direct market participation.

Bank lending

The test is still to come

With the banks apparently moving back towards the limits of interest bearing, deposit holders will be looking to the Bank of England to see whether the necessary action to cut back on lending would seem to be evaporating.

But the really testing time is still to come, and yesterday the banks were playing down the significance of the statistics for the monthly V.M. for three weeks prior to December 8.

The next set of figures will embrace an exceptionally long six week period during which will fall the year-end payment interest and commission charges, quarterly V.M. payments by manufacturing industry and the heaviest corporation tax paying period.

After January 1 companies now face a penalty for non-payment of rates at the rate of 9 per cent a year which is not allowable for tax purposes. There is strong incentive to pay promptly.

Whether or not these factors combine to produce a minor borrowing rush, the banks can be expected to take a very cautious view of their rates, much as they did last year, almost regardless of what happens to Minimum Lending Rate.

At the start of 1976 it may be recalled, the tax gathering season turned out to be a non-event, but despite their high degree of liquidity the clearing felt justified in holding their base rates steady against a possible flood of borrowing demand at a time when money market rates might otherwise have justified a drop.

This year the banks are much less liquid and much less interested in new lending and, in any case, currently feel that it will need more than a point drop in M.L.R. to produce even a theoretical case for a lower base rate. For all that the Treasury bill rate keeps falling, other money market rates are remaining high because of the persisting chronic shortage of day-to-day funds.

It is hardly likely that the authorities will have to do something to ease this

Selection Trust has yet another new mine, or at least that is what can be inferred from the latest drilling results from the Teutonic Bore copper/zinc prospect in Australia. The news was worth another 15p on the shares yesterday and, given that much of the market was largely ignorant of the latest develop-

ments, must be good for further appreciation.

True, ST's shares have appreciated by more than a quarter (partly as a result of American buying and partly on Teutonic anticipation) since the beginning of December, smartly outstripping the other United Kingdom mining finance houses and the FT 30 share index. And the latest Teutonic results are, not unexpectedly, not quite as good as the first drilling results.

But they have partly delisted the mineralization zone—diamond drilling continues—and they have shown that there is a viable high grade, if small, mine suitable to open cast mining.

It is precisely this kind of mine that ST needs—relatively low capital expenditure producing a fast cash flow. Given the group's already heavy capital commitments for its other projects, a large but high capital cost mine would have been just about the last thing it needed.

The Teutonic results are likely to win back most of the former friends who deserted ST over fears about its ambitious development programme. They will also give added spice to the shares of ST's Australian arm—Selcraig Exploration.

Bullock

Posers for the multinationals

The Bullock Report on industrial democracy may well lead to radical changes in the corporate structure of multinational companies if, as seems probable, its proposals ignore the rather different requirements of international groups who have many of their assets and employees outside the United Kingdom.

What particularly worries several multinationals—to judge by the tenor of their evidence already to the committee—is the effect that union representation will have on the decision-making process of groups that by their very nature have to take a global view, particularly as regards the direction of investment which has been something of a hot potato for the past few years.

Certainly, the adoption of a unitary rather than a two-tier system which appears to be one of Bullock's central proposals, could give British employee representation a disproportionate influence on decisions, a degree of influence that is not accorded employees working overseas. Some form of control representation is likely to lead to a hopeless conflict of national interests.

That sort of obstacle has already been circumvented in Europe to some extent by the supervisory and executive board structure, and in Holland there is a rigid distinction between worker participation at the national and international level.

Even so, the problems that can arise are amply illustrated by Volkswagen, whose supervisory board recently kicked up a row over plans for investing in the United States.

Moreover, multinationals deeply involved in developing countries have even more cause for worry since increasingly now they are joint shareholders with local governments.

Ahead of Bullock, few companies are willing to clemency their reaction to their possibilities in detail. But for groups like Shell and Unilever it could well lead to some corporate restructuring to establish simply a United Kingdom holding company for trade union members to sit on, though the legal and exchange control complications, not to mention the opposition of the unions, involved in shifting the base of operations out of the United Kingdom would be horrendous.

German economic miracle questioned by unions

The West German Government is accustomed to having pressure put on it to reflate.

Mr Callaghan, in his radio interview of last week, was just the latest in a long line of foreign statesmen and central bankers who have tried—so far unsuccessfully—to get Bonn to do more to stimulate the domestic economy.

Now, however, the foreign hopefuls can expect more. The German Government, Federally, in Germany itself.

The West German trade union movement is convinced that more must be done to achieve stronger economic growth with the aim of restoring full employment.

Next Tuesday representatives of the Government, Federal Bank, employers and unions get together in the Bonn Economics Ministry for another meeting of the "concerted action" committee to discuss the state of the economy.

They do so at a time of growing uncertainty over the strength of the economic upswing in West Germany. The Bonn Economics Ministry recently revised its real growth estimate for 1976 down to 5.5 per cent from 6 per cent previously and is now forecasting a real 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent rise in real gross national product this year.

The unions are less optimistic. The OECD, for example, putting the likely growth of the German economy this year at only 3.5 per cent.

The unions, under the aegis of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund, the German TUC, will take the opportunity of next week's meeting to tell the government that the forecast growth in the economy this year will be insufficient to bring about a significant reduction in the high unemployment rate.

The unions have made similar noises in the past. But their stance next week is likely to be more determined than before as they are losing patience with government policy and with the German general election out of the way are freer than at any time in the past 18 months to criticize the actions of the Social Democrat-Free Democrat coalition government of Chancellor Schmidt.

They are also in the middle of the annual round of wage bargaining and having to fend off rank and file discontent after a year of remarkable wage restraint.

Last year the unions settled for wage increases averaging between 5 and 6 per cent, fully

realizing that corporate profits would rise at a faster rate than earnings, but hoping that the profit rise would (as the Government expected) be translated into increased industrial investment and more jobs.

Investments rose last year, probably by a real 5 per cent, but were insufficient to make an appreciable dent in the number of unemployed.

Herr Heinz Oskar Vetter, the chairman of the DGB, has given vent to his dissatisfaction with this train of events in a number of interviews with German newspapers and magazines. Coming in the slack news period around Christmas and New Year, Herr Vetter's remarks have made him perhaps the most talked about man in Germany at the moment.

Peter Norman

In a recent interview with the news magazine *Der Spiegel* he said that the unions had never fully believed in the thesis that higher profits led to job creating investment and that their scepticism had been fully confirmed by the events of the past year.

He underlined a fact that has always been skated over by the Government's economic strategists, namely that higher profits are often used to rationalise jobs out of existence.

Particularly alarming for the largely conservative German press was a stab that Herr Vetter made at that sacred cow of German economic thinking, the social free market economy, when he questioned whether it can form the basis of a free society in the future if both sides of industry are unable to restore full employment within its framework.

In another newspaper interview he suggested that a last resort method of combating unemployment would be to cut working hours. Work available would be shared round more evenly and as an act of solidarity with the unemployed, the workers accepting a cut in working hours should also take a corresponding cut in income.

This last proposal, seemingly so at variance with present union demands for wage increases of 10 per cent, has been rejected by various member unions of the DGB, employers groups and economic research organisations while the Government has distanced itself from the idea.

Americans losing Saudi business

Americans are increasingly losing business in Saudi Arabia these days, a country in which they have been accustomed to the lion's share of trade for several years.

Last year was a particularly bad one for the United States in the desert kingdom, where it has lost many sought-after contracts, particularly, according to Mr Joe Eblam, head of the commercial section of the United States embassy in Jeddah, to British, West German, Japanese and Korean companies.

Americans bidding for a \$953m industrial project at the port of Jubail lost out to the Korean company, Hyundai.

At the port of Yanbu, several American companies were after a \$163m contract for a seven-birth development, which Saudi companies lost to the Greek company, Archirodon.

In the water desalination sector, Westinghouse was competing for a cherished \$1,000m project at Jubail which went to the Japanese company IHI.

When Westinghouse made their bid for this project they actually wrote into their contract that they would not comply with the Arab anti-Jewish boycott.

Also in Jubail, the Americans—having failed to win a contract for dredging the harbour (which went to the Dutch

company, Volker)—had to content themselves with a sub-contract.

The British beat the Americans in a bid for a \$200m contract for building four hospitals for the Saudi Ministry of Health at Riyadh.

Over \$5,000m worth of contracts for British products, services and knowhow over the next 12 years from Saudi Arabia's air force, National Guard and police force for radar, communications, airfield installations, factories, roads, living accommodation, maintenance, equipment and training, also represents a serious loss of long-term, highly lucrative business to United States companies eager to dominate in this field.

With the Saudis suddenly buying British where once they would automatically have bought American, Britain's aviation, electronics and building construction industries can take heart at a time when British industry is urgently in need of such a welcome boost.

The first of these new British contracts will go to British Aircraft Corporation—a \$1,500m contract for military aircraft work throughout the kingdom.

BAC is bringing another 6,000 technicians to Saudi Arabia this year to add to its 2,000 employees already at Riyadh, Dhahran, Jeddah, Khams, Moshait, Tabuk and Taif.

Many of Far Eastern share companies started with the acquisition in 1971 of the SW stake in Haw Par, makers of the well-known elixir, Tiger Balm.

"Tiger what?" cut in Barracough, chairman of the Home Office's Poisons Board and member of many drug advisory bodies.

"Balm," said Waterhouse succinctly.

"Oh," replied the magistrate, and Waterhouse continued, only for the lights to go out.

When, a minute or so later, they were restored, Barracough ignored both the interruption and the dithering from the gallery. Waterhouse began where he left off, in mid-sentence. Slater and Tarling resumed taking notes.

Waterhouse who looks like a younger Lord Roathby, began, softly but insistently, saying that although much had been said recently about the administration of justice in Singapore it might be that this was not relevant to the matters now before this court.

This had no visible effect on Slater or Tarling, who sat not in the dock but with their solicitors, in the second row behind their counsel.

For much of the morning the two men were frozen in identical postures, head propped up the left hand, while the right scribbled away in exercise books.

Waterhouse's by now familiar Richard Tarling.

The Kaldor Kink

Why after 25 years of unprecedented prosperity and comparative stability did the world economy go off the rails in the 1970s? Explanations abound; and they will doubtless continue to do so as long as economists have breath.

But consensus is far to seek; and any reasonable hypothesis deserves attention. The abandonment of fixed exchange rates, suddenly increased militancy of trade unions, Opec, the fiscal and monetary irresponsibility of western governments, the mysterious 60-year rhythms of Kondratieff's cycles and even the long-awaited fulfilment of Marx's predictions of capitalist over-production have all been blamed for the trouble.

There is even a man who has been writing to me for 10 years predicting and then explaining disaster as the inevitable consequence of the foreign exchange costs of the British Army on the Rhine.

The ever fertile Professor Lord Kaldor offers his own explanation in the *Economic Journal*, where his presidential address to the Royal Economic Society last July is reprinted.

It is eclectic in that it reflects any single simple explanation and embraces in a broader pattern a number of the factors which others have made the sole or principal causes of the "combination of inflation and economic recession" which, as Kaldor remarks, is a new phenomenon the explanation of which presents an intellectual challenge to economists.

His thesis in brief, as I understand it, is that the source of the trouble lies in the permanent vulnerability of the world economy to any instability, upwards or downwards, in commodity prices. We lie always at the angle of a kinked curve and move from it at our peril.

The danger was held at bay for the first two decades after the Korean war by a lucky accident. Political pressures from America's farm lobby for a military lobby for a strategic food reserve led the Government in Washington to operate an unintentional but effective world buffer stock in grain.

Under President Nixon the picture changed. If the United States had shown greater readiness to carry stocks of grain (instead of trying by all means to eliminate its huge surpluses by giving away wheat under PL 480 provisions and by reducing output through acreage restrictions) the sharp rise in food prices following upon the large grain purchases by the USSR, which unhinged the stability of the world price level far more than anything else, could have been avoided.

(It is obscure in Lord Kaldor's exposition why American policy would have been more stabilising in the face of soaring demand and falling supply, if they had been less willing to disperse their stocks cheaply or gratis.)

Thus the world economy was fully exposed to nature's, or at least the price mechanism's, remedy for the big rise in monetary demand for food and raw materials that developed from the summer of 1972.

This in turn was caused by the "favourable" movement in the terms of trade between manufactured goods and commodities to which the world-wide wage explosion in industrial countries between 1968 and 1971 had led.

The problem was aggravated by "a great deal of commodity buying as an inflation-hedge" which was encouraged both by general inflationary expectations and by the currency upheavals following the formal suspension of the gold convertibility of the dollar in August 1971, leading people to use commodities including gold itself as a store of value in the absence of any stable monetary medium.

The quinquennial of the price of oil, occurring after commodity prices had already doubled or tripled, was merely the last straw.

The wage inflation of 1968-71 is attributed by Lord Kaldor to a combination of generally "increased trade union militancy mainly attributable to the sharply rising deductions from the pay packet for payments of income tax and insurance contributions" and a yet-to-be explained international explosion of "long-smouldering resentment and dissatisfaction which, when matters came to a head in one country, caused the rapid spread of the eruption to others."

Lord Kaldor distinguishes this bolt-from-the-blue phenomenon from the "creeping inflation" of 1953-67, which he attributes to the interaction of "powerful social forces which make for constancy in relative earnings in different trades and occupations" with the tendency for wages in the so-called dynamic sectors, which set the pace for the rest, to run ahead of productivity gains in other less favoured sectors.

Throughout, Lord Kaldor appears to assume either accommodating monetary and fiscal policies, which prevent higher supply prices for labour from causing any unemployment, or a limitless capacity and willingness of manufacturing employers to absorb higher wage costs in reduced profit margins or both (perhaps the second intra-cyclical and the first trans-cyclical).

For all of these reasons—trade union militancy, the abandonment of fixed exchange rates, the failure of American grain stocks to play their former role, Opec, western fiscal and monetary policies—the world economy was by 1973 fully exposed for the first time since the 1920s to the natural and "normal" consequences of a mismatch between the output of the primary (commodity-producing) and secondary (manufacturing) sectors of the world economy. In that sense Marx's industrial over-production is also embraced in the thesis.

Peter Jay Economics Editor

These natural and normal consequences, for so long suppressed by good fortune, are the theoretical core of Lord Kaldor's explanation. This rests on the fundamental proposition from the very laws of the commodity prices—irrespective of whether it is in favour of or against the primary producers—tends to have a dampening effect on industrial activity.

In classical theory the terms of trade (that is the relative prices) between the two basic sectors of the world economy, move to preserve the necessary balance between the output of each sector, which being complementary to the other, must produce as much but no more than the other can absorb. According to Lord Kaldor, however, the mechanism does not work symmetrically.

A relative over-supply of primary products causes a fall in their price, which is determined by the level of effective demand, and therefore a fall in primary sector incomes and so a fall in that sector's ability to buy manufactured products.

But a relative under-supply of primary products, while causing a rise in their price, also causes a rise in the price of manufactured goods. For their prices are cost-determined; and raw materials (including food for industrial workers) are an industrial input to which customers' final price margins are automatically added.

So, whichever way commodity prices move absolutely, they tend, if they move at all, to fall in relation to manufactured prices, thereby cutting primary producers' real incomes and so depressing demand for manufactured goods.

Moreover, in the second case, where primary prices have initially risen, the governments in industrial countries tend to react to the evidence of rising prices by pursuing deflationary (or at least less than fully accommodating) fiscal and monetary policies, the realising of which phenomenon of inflation and economic recession whose explanation presented the original intellectual challenge to economists?

The remedy, according to Lord Kaldor, therefore lies in stabilising commodity prices. To this end he urges the world's governments "to create international buffer stocks for all the main commodities, and to link the finance of these stocks directly to the issue of international currency, such as the special drawing rights, which could thus be backed by, and directly convertible into, major commodities including foodstuffs, fibres and metals."

Inflation and Recession in the World Economy by Professor Lord Kaldor, *Economic Journal*, December 1976, Cambridge University Press.

Business Diary: Slater, Tarling and Tiger Balm

Business Diary's Ross Davies was at the Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday, for the opening of the extradition proceedings brought against former Slater, Walker executive chairman Jim Slater and his then associate, Richard Tarling.

"I do hope this doesn't last too long. I had a Mexican meal last night and I've got Montezuma's revenge," said one of the dozen or so photographers shuffling about in the cold and the wet waiting for Slater to arrive.

The photographer had only a few minutes to wait, however, before Slater came striding along.

Slater and Tarling, who arrived separately, were to face proceedings brought by the Singapore government over the affairs of the former Slater Walker satellite Haw Par, proceedings expected to take about 11 days.

Slater looked cheerful in a light blue shirt, blue patterned tie, light grey suit and dark grey overcoat with velvet collar. He was accompanied only by his solicitor.

He was preceded by members of his defence, who lugged into No 3 Court consignments of red-bound files in cartons marked Hays Business Records Centre.

Inside the court, Slater, looking more sanguine, met Tarling and as they began to chat to counsel members of the defence began to grumble about the lack of space in the

court—some of it taken up by reporters who could find no seats in the press gallery.

"We're moving to No 1 Court," boomed an official. No press in the well of the court.

Slater, Tarling, counsel, registrar and bailiff accordingly filed out and made their way through the drunks and motor cycle kids hanging around in the hallway.

But as the protagonists settled down once again in the

well of the court, reporters arriving at the entrance to the press gallery were told by an attendant: "It's all locked up and there's probably no seats in there."

Nor were there. The scribes duly scuttled off to another court, mercifully empty, and removed the chairs therefrom.

There still was not enough room in No 1 Court and six reporters were allowed to sit alongside the 30 or so lawyers

in the well. Defence counsel Slater and Tarling, who sat not in the dock but with their solicitors, in the second row behind their counsel.

This had no visible effect on Slater or Tarling, who sat not in the dock but with their solicitors, in the second row behind their counsel.

For much of the morning the two men were frozen in identical postures, head propped up the left hand, while the right scribbled away in exercise books.

Waterhouse's by now familiar Richard Tarling.

Waterhouse who looks like a younger Lord Roathby, began, softly but insistently, saying that although much had been said recently about the administration of justice in Singapore it might be that this was not relevant to the matters now before this court.

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JOHN WADDINGTON LTD INTERIM STATEMENT.

Unaudited results for the 28 weeks ended 10th October, 1976.

	28 weeks to 10th October, 1976	28 weeks to 10th October, 1975	52 weeks to 28th March, 1976
Sales	18,730	15,026	27,955
Profit before Taxation	2,025	921	1,735
Less: Taxation*	1,095	555	1,031
Profit after Taxation	930	366	704
Amount attributable to Minority Shareholders	(7)	(7)	(7)
Profit after Taxation attributable to the Shareholders of John Waddington Ltd.	937	373	711

* The charge for taxation has been calculated at 52%, but certain losses of overseas subsidiaries do not give rise to a corresponding tax relief.

TRADING RESULTS

The improvement in trading conditions reflected in the latter part of the last annual result has continued in this year, and the company is now showing a return on sales which is similar to the record year of 1974/75.

Demand for packaging has been satisfactory and Plastona (John Waddington) Ltd. is now doing well. In spite of severe competition and the arrival of many more new games than the market can bear, Waddingtons House of Games Ltd. is having a good year. Valentines of Dundee Ltd. sold all its Christmas merchandise and seems to be making yet another record profit. In short all the major parts of the Company are successful.

Capital expenditure has continued during

The Board anticipates that the dividend for the whole year will be increased by the maximum permissible (10%). In order to improve the balance between interim and final dividends the Board has raised the interim dividend from 1.3125 pence per share to 2 pence per share.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Business survey and December reserves shrugged aside

Nervous at first on profit-taking and a cautious business survey, shares rallied well in the afternoon session as the pound made progress and the December reserves figures proved to be no worse than feared.

Dealers reported that trade was more two-way than of late with the emphasis moving away from the industrial leaders to the second-line issues. The FT Index, 1.2 off at 10 am, gained ground thereafter and, by the close, stood 2.1 up at 362.7, a creditable performance in the opinion of most.

BP may soon take a stake in the medium-sized Buchan Field and is said to be talking to the operating consortium. The field, in block 21/1, looks promising and oil men expect an investment of around £50m by the major. At present the main British interest is through the 8 per cent held by Charterhall, whose shares trade at around 20p.

Shares with North Sea interests continued to progress and there were also a good number of "situation" stocks. In the fixed-interest market, continuing hopes of a gradual easing of interest rates brought fresh demand but, like equities, trade was more two-way throughout the list.

At the short end, gains were up to three-eighths, while medium and long-dated stocks, the latter further encouraged by the Government Broker's withdrawal of the long "tap" price, gained between one-eighth and one-quarter.

On a comparatively subdued leaders pitch, ICI added 4p to 350p, Courtaulds 3p to 93p and Unilever 2p to 432p. But both Glaxo 405p and Beecham 382p were left unmoved, the last named having been changed at the close only once in the last fortnight.

Another big name to attract demand was Rank with a rise of 9p to 146p, but GEC were just a penny up at 173p awaiting capital reorganization plans.

For a variety of reasons there were some strong features to be found in the paper sector where demand had kept 9p to the good at 192p and United Newspapers better by 6p to 204p. North Sea hopes gave a lift to Daily Mail "A", up 10p to 220p, while much better than expected figures from games group John Waddington gave the "A" shares an impressive 16p boost to 125p.

Ahead of figures due soon, McCorquodale gained 9p to end at 147p. The prospect of a Tote monopoly meant that bookmaking issues were left out in the cold with Ladbrooke losing 2p to 90p and Coral lower by 1p to 99p. News of merger talks had Beaver 4p to the good at 41p

and CH Industrial 2p firmer at 27p. An American stake lifted Anchor Chemical 4p to 45p, while Pauls & Whites were still wanted speculatively at 91p, a gain of 3p.

After a mention here, Barr & Stroud closed 10p to the good at 140p. Other second-liners to feature included Johnson Matthey, up 10p to 317p, Newman Industries 4p to 34p and Vantona 3p to 83p.

Building industry shares again managed to shake off their background gloom and notable were Travis & Arnold, firmer by 6p to 83p, Marchwell 4p to 118p on continuing bid talk, Istock Johnson 4p to 78p and ahead of figures due next week, English China Clays which closed 31p to the good at 176p.

Though movements were generally easier shipping shares attracted interest, notably Furness Withy which added 6p to 213p on talk that a Euro-canadian placing of its shares could spark off a full-scale bid. Charles Hill of Belfast soared 18p to 94p but more modestly, P & O ended 11p better at 128p. After news of an intended expansion, British Car Auctions shed 11p to 29p.

Other good spots had Sale Tilers 5p better at 102p, Fosco Minsep gaining 4p to 152p, and furniture maker, Gomme Holdings up 11p to 43p.

Harrisons & Crosfield, the plantations group, closed 13p to the good at 400p, while the lapsing of the Travancore offer left Southern India 3p down to 40p.

Enthusiasts for Concentric fasten on 1975-76's 67 per cent jump in profits to a record £2.11m; hope for around £2.75m this year; and like the argument that the group has, among other things, a fifth of the world market for lubricating oil pumps used in diesel engines. At 36p, a 1976-77 peak, the yield is still a fair 9.3 per cent.

After the strength of recent days, the oil majors had a subdued day with BP ending 4p off at 836p, after 842p, on profit-taking and Shell just a couple of pence to the good at 460p. Tricentral were a point better at 106p.

In the mining sector, most of the heavyweight gold issues lost 50p, or so, behind the metal price. But Selection Trust closed 15p ahead at 465p after some bullish American news.

With the possibility of a cut on base rates looming nearer, two of the four clearing banks went ahead by 5p. These were Lloyds at 215p and Barclays at 235p, but both National Westminster 228p and Midland 267p ended unchanged on the day. Among overseas issues, Standard Chartered also put on 5p, to 338p, but HK & Shanghai reacted from its recent gains to lose 11p to 366p.

Other good spots on the financial pitches had Gillet Brothers gaining 7p to 170p, Arbutnot Latham better by 5p to 120p and Provident Financial ending 2p ahead at 120p. Normally volatile, the composite insurance issues were subdued though there were 4p advances from Pearl 196p, Prudential 120p and Royal 289p. Equity & Law went even better adding 6p to 120p.

The possibility of a lower interest rate burden brought selective demand to properties where Hammerson "A" started with a 15p rise to 325p. Chesterfield put on 4p to 145p, Bradford 3p to 121p and Land Securities 2p to 145p.

After encouraging results and a scrip, Ratners ended 4p ahead at 60p while Esperanza put on another penny to 131p after earlier figures.

In breweries, Wolverhampton & Dudley saw some speculative demand to end several pence to the good at 119p in late trading, while Allied improved to 63p,

up 6p, ahead of figures which are scheduled to come today. Among random features there were British Leyland, up 3p to 25p, paint maker D. Macpherson 3p to 40p, Caplan Profile 4p to 41p, J. Haggas 10p to 285p and McLeod Russell 6p to 126p.

Where changed, most leaders gained a point or so in after-hours trading. Oils tended easier and properties ran into light profit-taking. News of a bid approach put 8p on Kode International at 57p and shorted gilts went a little firmer. Equity turnover on January 5 was £62.15m (10,836 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, BAF, DFI, ICI, Shell, P & O, Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank, National Westminster Bank, Ultramar, Trust Houses Forte, English China Clay, Ladbrooke, Furness Withy, Epicure Holdings, Associated Engineering, Rank, Myson, Hammerson "A" and Land Securities.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's prev
Birmingham Pallet (10p)	4.0	3.5	7/3	5.3
Esperanza Trade (12 1/2p) Int	1.8	1.6	10/3	—
Ratners (Jewellers) (10p)	0.83	0.7	—	2.4
H. Samuel (25p)	1.1	1.0	31/1	—
John Waddington (25p) Int	2.15	1.31	15/2	6.45*
Winterbottom Trust	—	1.92	4/3	3.75

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.34. * Forecast.

Waddington more than doubles at half way

By Adrienne Gleeson
John Waddington, the Leeds-based manufacturer of games and packaging, has produced its highest-ever interim results. Pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to mid-October topped the £2m mark against the depressed £321,000 of the corresponding period last year.

The directors expect to pay full-year dividends increased by the maximum to 9.9p a share. To reduce the disparity between the interim and final payments they have decided to increase the interim from 2.02p to 3.03p a share. The final will in consequence be reduced.

Sales in the first half year increased from £15.03m to

£18.73m, reflecting a successful performance by all major divisions. Demand for packaging products has been reasonably good, now that destocking has come to an end.

But on the publishing side demand has been very good indeed, with the games subsidiary doing well despite a big increase in competition. The Christmas card publishing subsidiary sold out of stock.

John Waddington is now stepping up spending on plant and buildings. It has allocated £1m extra, which will come from existing cash reserves.

The money is to be spent on several small projects rather than on one major development.

Baker Perkins steps up holding in US subsidiary

Plant and machinery maker Baker Perkins Holdings has strengthened its holding in Baker Perkins Inc of the United States from 72.6 to about 83 per cent.

This was brought about by buying 134,000 more shares in BPI from members or relatives of the Conrad W. Petersen family at \$10.35 a share.

Baker Perkins Holdings also plans to bring about a cash offer of BPI with a subsidiary of BPI under which minority holders in BPI stock

would also receive \$10.35 for each share.

In its latest results for the half-year to September 30 last, reported last month, BPI pre-tax profits were £2.3m. These were better than in any full year before the record £4.45m made in 1975-76.

Turnover rose 15 per cent to over £38m thanks chiefly to the United Kingdom companies and their exports. Overseas manufacturing had a 17 per cent rise in sales to £14.3m.

Caravans Internat'l pauses for breath

By Ashley Drucker

Back in form in 1975-76 after two rough years, Caravans International is pausing for breath. It expects the results for this year to August 31 to be broadly in line with the £2.1m pre-tax in the preceding 12 months.

This time round Mr Sam Alper, chairman, hopes for better things at home. The reshaping in the United Kingdom manufacturing activities and their dependent European marketing operations has been completed.

For the year ahead a new United Kingdom range of products combines a better specification with keen pricing. The group is in good time to take advantage of the apparent upsurge in the home market. Exports too are looking up. The new ranges have been well received overseas and exports should show a "substantial" increase over last year's £6.4m. The German companies are also looking for increased sales both on their own home market and elsewhere.

Belgrave's new career comes under attack

A fight has broken out between Messrs J. N. Oppenheim and Calander who direct Belgrave Assets, a small investment trust, whose shares are suspended, and holders of just over a tenth of the trust's shares.

The holders want an extraordinary meeting to consider a resolution that Belgrave keeps its authorised trust status. Mr Oppenheim says that the company's solicitors consider that the directors would not be obliged to comply with such a resolution even if passed. If shareholders are dissatisfied

with the board, he says, they should replace it.

The chairman reminds them of his annual statement. There he argued that Belgrave should see non-qualified investments which could benefit a group with a small equity base.

Belgrave would relinquish authorised status to give it the necessary freedom and take an interest in Kellogg Factors. The board would then apply for relisting. Kellogg Holdings has 16 1/2 per cent of Belgrave's shares. A circular will be sent out in a few weeks.

Beaver Gp and CH Industrials rise on merger talks

The boards of CH Industrials and Beaver Group are talking about a merger. Shareholders will be kept informed, a joint statement says.

Before the news Beaver shares were 35p, up 2p, valuing the group at £916,000, while CH, the old Coventry Road & Screen, stood at 25p for a market worth of £10.7m. News of the talks pushed Beaver 4p higher to 41p and CH hardened 2p to 27p. This gives a combined capitalisation of £2.23m.

Trading at Beaver, a paint, building chemicals and management services group, in the six months to June 30 was disappointing. Pre-tax profits shrank from £180,000 to £119,000. However, a better second half was expected. Over the whole of 1975, pre-tax profits fell from a record £454,000 to £286,000. At CH the first half saw a turnaround from losses of £56,000 to a profit of £226,000 before tax, and the second half was expected to be even better. The whole of 1975 brought in £348,000 against a record £443,000.

Wellcome jumps 58pc

An increase of 58 per cent to £290m in sales at Wellcome Foundation for the year to August 28, includes £21m from the sale in the value of sterling. But Mr A. A. Gray, the outgoing chairman says that real progress was made. Pre-tax profits jumped 58 per cent to

£41.4m after general research and development expenditure of £21.9m against £15.2m.

Mr Gray forecasts "further progress" under the new chairman, Mr A. J. Shepherd.

Scrip by Ratners in boom year

A one for two scrip issue and a forecast of a bumper year sent the shares in Ratners (Jewellers) up 3p to 60p. Branch expansion and "aggressive marketing" meant a 23 per cent rise to £4.3m in turnover but one of only £13,000 to £375,000 in pre-tax profits in the six months to October 6.

But this is better than it looks because last year's figures took in the VAT concession boom. The second half year is the key one for Ratners because it includes Christmas, and it was "outstanding".

The directors expect record profits this year to go against the £19,000 of 1976 and the old peak of £108m the year before.

Expansion continues, and in March the group plans to open its first branch in Europe at Amsterdam.

C. T. Bowring

C. T. Bowring is forming a new company, C. T. Bowring Professional Indemnity, to operate at once as a Lloyd's Broker.

It will handle the professional indemnity insurance now in the London-based companies of C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings, in the United Kingdom, Europe and Africa.

This company, will also be responsible for managing the Bowring group's interest in two associated companies—London Insurance Brokers and RICS Insurance Services.

Bid approach lifts

Kode Int shares

A jump of 8p to 57p in the shares of Kode International greeted the news of a bid approaching. At 57p the group is valued at £1.8m.

The board, headed by Mr Colin Banks—the founder who regained the chair last April—advises shareholders to do nothing until there is a further announcement.

BCA plans to bid for Nationwide Leisure

British Car Auction Group is to bid for Nationwide Leisure, which owns undeveloped property and has interests ranging from caravan sites to a pawn-broking chain in Scotland. The terms of one BCA share for every three Nationwide value each share at 9.8p and the group at £518,000.

The offer is being made with the knowledge of Nationwide's

chairman, and a board meeting will be called on Friday to consider it.

US group to take a 14pc stake in Anchor

The board of Anchor Chemical has agreed that Sartomer Industries Inc will subscribe for 400,000 new ordinary shares in Anchor at 45p a share. Bank of England permission has been granted.

The share issue representing 14 per cent of the Anchor capital as enlarged, will "further the existing relationship" between Sartomer and Anchor. Mr H. K. Just, president of Sartomer will be invited to join the Anchor board.

Family sidesteps

Coral Leisure

The Chandler family, controlling shareholders in Walthamstow Stadium, has outflanked Coral Leisure Group in the fight to own Walthamstow Stadium. This came in the news that GRA Property Trust, which ran into financial problems through its involvement in property, has sold its one-third interest in Walthamstow to the Chandlers for more than £400,000.

A fortnight ago Coral reported talks with Walthamstow on the decisive one-third stake held by GRA.

Swissair set to rally after 1975 downturn

Profits in 1976 for Swissair exceeded the previous record of 230m francs. In 1974, the group said Zurich. Detailed results will be published at the end of this month.

But he was unable to comment on reports that a higher 1976 dividend will be proposed, possibly restoring it to its previous level of 30 francs after the cut to 20 francs in 1975.

Overseas

The bigger 1976 earnings arose both from a surprisingly good traffic increase and cost savings. In 1975 Swissair's gross profit fell from 220m to 195m francs. Net profits dropped from 43m to 25m francs.—Reuters.

French computer link-up

Cap-Sogel computer services group has bought a 51 per cent stake in the Bossard Group. Bossard specializes in public relations and advertising. Cap-Sogel is the biggest French concern in the field, and the enlarged group will have a turn-

over of about 350m francs a year.—AP-DJ.

Franc impedes Sandoz advance

Swiss chemical group Sandoz AG reports 1976 earnings in line with 1975's 145m francs and 1974's 185m francs. Turnover was about 4 per cent above 1975's 3,900m francs, the group added in Basle.

Sales, which had advanced strongly in the opening half year as stocks were rebuilt, especially in dyestuffs and chemicals, developed only slowly in the second six months. The dear Swiss franc also continued to be a problem.

The group is countering this with only "modest" new investment in Switzerland and concentration on expansion abroad, particularly in the United States. Recent takeovers of Northrup King and Chicago Dietetics will raise the American share of group turnover from 18 per cent to 26 per cent this year. Dyestuffs raised turnover last year by 14 per cent but profits failed to return to pre-1974 levels. The bulk of these products are Swiss made in dear francs.—Reuters.

Lloyds and Scottish
A Further Year of Growth

George Duncan, Chairman

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT STATEMENT

	1976 £'000	1975 £'000
Group profit before taxation	14,483	13,103
Group profit after taxation and minority interests	6,646	6,237
Extraordinary items	(598)	50
Profit after extraordinary items attributable to Lloyds and Scottish Ltd.	6,048	6,287
Dividends	3,587	3,261
Profit retained in the Group	2,461	3,026
Earnings per share	6.55p	6.19p

Main points from the Chairman's Statement

- * Group profit before tax amounted to £14.5 million compared with £13.1 million in 1975—an increase of 10.5%.
- * INSTALLMENT CREDIT AND LEASING DIVISION—Growth in volume of corporate business tied to a published base rate. —Volume increased during second half of year.
- * INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DIVISION—Higher profits from distribution, factoring and recent acquisitions.
- * Dividends per share have increased to 3.53337p, the maximum permitted under the provisions of the Counter Inflation legislation on company dividends, from 3.22615p last year. The year's dividend is covered 1.85 times.

*FUTURE PROSPECTS

—Diversification of the Group's activities has strengthened its ability to produce a creditable performance in spite of adverse economic circumstances. The principal involvement of the Group continues, however, to be in the instalment finance industry and events of the past few weeks make it hazardous to comment on the prospects for the current year. Since the end of our financial year, there have been increases in the minimum lending rate and the Bank of England has introduced a credit control on banks and deposit-taking finance houses. These factors will affect demand and the prospects for growth. We enter the New Year, therefore, in a climate of uncertainty. Over the years, however, the Group has had to face similar situations and has weathered the storms well. I am confident that it will continue to do so.



Lloyds and Scottish Limited

Business appointments

New advisory member on Unilever NV board

Dr Dieter Spethmann has been made an advisory member of the board of Unilever NV.

Mr Norman Wakefield is to become managing director and chief executive of L. Lovell (Holdings) in April 1. Mr P. H. P. Lovell and Mr A. W. Davies will resign as joint managing directors in March, but remain on the board. Mr Wakefield has been managing director of Holland, Hannes & Cubitts.

Mr Gerald Perutz, managing director of Bell & Howell, has become executive vice-president of Bell & Howell Co, Chicago, with responsibility for all international operations.

Mr J. McLeod has been made chairman of Sabah Timber, succeeding Mr H. G. C. Townsend, who has retired. Mr Leonard Paton has also retired.

Group Captain Hugh Dundas is now a director of Wembley Stadium.

Mr Alan Moody has been appointed group financial director and secretary of I. C. Saxson. Mr P. E. E. Johnson has joined the board of Smith Baker. The following group appointments have been announced by Barton & Sons: Mr S. B. Johnson as managing director of Wright Anderson; Mr H. W. Day as managing director of Walton & Co (Wolverhampton); Mr Stanley as managing director of Barton Handling Systems; Mr H. L. Eyles as an additional director of Walton & Co (Wolverhampton).

Mr J. F. D. Wood and Mr J. F. Redgrave have joined the board of Chamberlain Group.

Mr B. C. Smith is to become a full-time member of the British Gas Corporation. He succeeds Mr J. A. Buckley, who retired recently, as member for marketing.

Mr R. M. J. Ince and Mr R. J. Dows have joined the board of MacFisheries.

Mr J. M. Borman has been made executive chairman of the new Cadwaladr Investments. Mr W. H. Batchelor and Mr R. Gladwell become joint managing directors. Other board members are Mr R. V. Craig and Mr A. D. Johnson.

Mr Charles, deputy managing director of British Aluminium has been elected president of the Aluminium Federation.

Mr Ronald Copeman has been appointed general manager in charge of the London branch of Investitions-und Handelsbank AG of Frankfurt, in succession to Mr W. D. Wickham, who has retired. Mr Alan Bridger is the new managing director of Bolles Distributors. Mr Dennis Dickinson, Herr Erwin Eiler and Herr Walter Sauter are to become additional directors.

Mr Herbert Shaw has been made a director of B. Major & Son.



Mr Wakefield Mr Perutz

Mr Herbert Morley is now chairman of Bridon Wire in succession to Mr J. J. Douglas. Mr Patrick has taken over as chairman of Templeborough Rolling Mills from Mr Harry Smith, Bridon's chairman.

Mr Philip O'Donoghue has become executive chairman of Anglo Irish Bank. Also joining the board are Mr J. Douglas, Mr Patrick Kennedy, and Mr Dermot Shortall.

Dr Jim Smith and Mr Arthur Ryan have been appointed to the board of Fibrecor.

Mr T. J. Thomas has been made director, consumer group, Dunlop. He succeeds Mr C. D. T. Collins who is taking up another post in Dunlop.

Mr Geoffrey Newman has joined the board of Industrial Executive Training Centre.

Mr C. J. Gibb has become a director of Stewart Wrightson (Surrey & Speck). Mr M. W. Davies, Mr G. F. Tapping, and Mr J. F. Douglas have been made directors of Stewart Wrightson (South Island).

Mr Terry Bird is now corporate treasurer for the Bowater Scott Corporation.

Mr Norman Nash has been made a director of Wilfred Edmunds. Mr R. Adams, Mr John Chawin and Mr Eric MacLaurin have joined the board of Outer Gear Bridge Holdings.

Mr Kenneth Brierley is now a director of Neepsend.

Mr Frank Pedler is to join the board of Reliance Mutual Insurance, the British Life Office and Reliance Fire and Accident Corporation.

Mr P. J. Davis has joined the board of James Austin Steel Holdings.

Mr A. Ebel and Mr D. J. Knott have joined the board of Graham House Estate.

Mr T. Wilson has joined the board of York Trust.

Miss P. A. Erith and Mr R. F. Erith have gone on to the board of Erith.

Mr J. Hall has been made a director of Safeguard Industrial Investments.

Mr N. Burdon has become personnel director and Mr F. B. arder a director of Simon-Hartley.

Briefly

BLACK & EDGINGTON

Group to buy Continental Tent Hire and Sales Service (Fareham) for £90,000 in cash and shares.

TELFER

Second distribution on ordinary of 2p a share, making 6p a share, payable Jan 24.

BCT

British Cinematograph Theatres reports turnover for half-year to July 31 down from £1.32m to £1.14m, including VAT. Pre-tax profits fell from £59,000 to £7,000. Year's results should be much better and imply cover usual dividend.

MATTHEW BROWN

Mr C. J. Ansell, chairman, reports that trade after eight weeks of current year has held up well, despite general price increase in October. Indeed, it is "marginally up" on last year.

WHITECROFT-HANSON

The stake of 25,000 shares in Whitecroft referred to yesterday, was not bought by Hanson Trust, but by Laing & C. Crickbank, out of £250,000 in cash. It bought 20,000 at 130p for associates, and 5,000 for discretionary investment clients.

PHOENIX ASSURANCE

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Wall Street

Today's loss of 9.81 points put the average at 978.06. Over the three trading days, the industrial composite has plummeted 27 points, due mainly to

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Dec. 2557	D.C.	302	March
Sailed	CORN	March	269-58
Dec. 2557	OATS	March	
Dec. 1874	July	1853	
1894	Mid.	Dec.	1812

Stock & Offshore

6/77			
Low			
Other Trust			
2nd Other Field			

*Transal National & Commercial			
Income	204.9	133.3	1.40
De Acctn	240.0	163.3	1.40
Capital	85.4	188.3	1.40
De Acctn	113.2	118.0	4.81

Unit Trust Account & Management			
Lane, R.R.M.			
Priety New York	88.0	100.0	1.25
Windsor	17.2	14.0	11.11

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

United Food	.....	..	..
1961-1 Performance	.....	126.7	..
1962-3 Balance	.....	118.1	..
1959-9 Guarantee	.....	186.0	..
Commercial Union Group			
1-1 Insurance, M.A.	.....	91-293	7950
1-2 Variable	.....	118.5	..
1-3 De Ammuty	.....	13.3	..
Carroll Insurance Co.			
1-1 London, E.C.	.....	91-435	5610
1-2 Capital Paid	.....	..	51.5
1-3 Special	.....	..	51.5
1-4 1961-2 Gross Pmt	.....	118.5	138.0
1-5 1962-3 Gross Pmt	.....	118.5	138.0
Crown Life & Insurance Co.			
1-1 London, E.C.	.....	91-535	4200
1-2 Crown Life Ins.	.....	100.0	..
1-3 Crown Life Ins.	.....	100.0	..
Windsor Insurance Co.			
1-1 Windsor, E.C.	.....	91-425	5000
1-2 Tuesday in month	.....	..	..
1-3 Tuesday in month	.....	..	..
1-4 Tuesday in month	.....	..	..
1-5 Tuesday in month	.....	..	..
First Trust Life Society			
1-1 Memphis, Tenn. Wt.	.....	91-487	5000
1-2 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-3 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-4 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-5 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-6 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-7 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-8 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-9 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-10 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-11 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-12 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-13 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-14 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-15 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-16 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-17 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-18 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-19 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-20 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-21 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-22 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-23 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-24 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-25 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-26 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-27 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-28 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-29 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-30 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-31 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-32 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-33 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-34 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-35 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-36 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-37 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-38 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-39 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-40 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-41 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-42 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-43 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-44 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-45 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-46 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-47 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-48 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-49 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-50 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-51 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-52 A & G/GR	.....	20.0	20.0
1-53 A & G/GR	20.0	20.0
1-54 A & G/GR	20.0	20.0
1-55 A & G/GR	20.0	20.0
1-56 A & G/GR	20.0	20.0
1-57 A & G/GR	20.0	20.0

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BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
Afore ye go

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 4. Dealings End, Jan 14. § Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 25.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Drummond's
Freedom
Suitings ...ask your tailor!

[illegible]

Motoring

Improvement in driving test long overdue

Recently used the examples of compulsory seat-belt wearing and the drink-driving law to illustrate the extraordinary delays that can occur when the intention to introduce a safety measure and that measure is coming into effect.

Compulsory seat-belt wearing has been a government policy for nearly 10 years and yet legislation seems as far away as ever. Nor does it look though the Blomherst report for tightening the law against drivers who will be implemented before 1978.

Before 1978, look at a third road safety measure which has been in action since the Government's consultation letter containing proposals for reforming the system of motorway driving was issued in 1974. Once again nothing has happened.

There are several reasons for taking subject seriously, not least the fact that drivers, and not vehicles or the state of the road, are primarily to blame for most accidents. In the case of a motorway, the importance of human element in accidents can be seen.

It is not to say that "bangers" are not banned from the road but every effort should be made to ward off motorists of hazards, but research (the Government's, mine) suggests that while vehicle safety can be helped, the human factor can be helped by legislation alone. But the driving test has not changed since it was introduced 40 years ago and an improved version is long overdue.

Less haste, more comfort—the revised Reliant Scimitar.

A part of a short written examination which would include questions about the Highway Code. I suppose it is possible to be a superb driver without having the slightest notion of how a car works although both from the practical and safety point of view I should have thought that a little such knowledge was highly desirable.

Another idea, widely practised abroad, is that a specific period of professional tuition, say 10 one-hour lessons, should be a condition of taking the test. In fact only 5 per cent of learner drivers, according to official figures, have no driving school instruction, and 80 per cent have between 25 and 30 hours. Curiously, though, a survey by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory suggested that candidates who took no professional tuition did as well in the test as those who had.

The consultation letter also examined night and dual-carriageway driving. It seems absurd, not to say dangerous, that immediately after darkness or on a motorway, a driver should be expected to drive in the dark. There are practical difficulties: those learning to drive in the summer, for instance, would have to book lessons late at night to ensure darkness in which to practice.

Playing the devil's advocate, one must wonder whether if there would be a noticeable drop in the accident rate if all those changes were put into effect immediately. Human error cannot always be corrected by legislation alone. But the driving test has not changed since it was introduced 40 years ago and an improved version is long overdue.

Road Test: Scimitar GTE

Sports cars have traditionally concentrated on performance and handling and it is a sign of the times that in updating the Scimitar Reliant has sacrificed a little of each to make the car bigger and more comfortable.

The revised Scimitar is four inches longer and three inches wider than before, and one of the main benefits is to increase leg room in the back. From being a two-plus-two, the Scimitar can now justly claim to seat four adults in comfort. The front seats fold forward more easily, and that has improved access to the back.

The other main change is to the suspension, where softer springs have been employed to give a more comfortable ride. They do, although the car is heavier a Peugeot 404, and some may find the handling less taut than it was, particularly when the vehicle is pushed hard through a corner. But the brakes are excellent and once I got used to the lightness I found the (optional) power steering admirable in its response.

A bigger car means more weight and performance has suffered a little. According to Reliant's figures, the 0 to 60 mph figure for the automatic version I have been driving is 11.6 seconds, which is not all that impressive considering the 135 bhp 3-litre Ford engine.

But I can only say that I found the car more than lively enough for my

purposes, with the smooth automatic kickdown (the gearbox is also from Ford) ensuring tremendous acceleration over a 6-speed. The claimed maximum is 120 mph, which if nothing else demonstrates how much the car has in hand at its permitted motorway speed: turning over at 3,200 rpm, the engine is notably quiet and unstrained.

It is a quiet car generally, apart from some tyre rumble on rough surfaces and concurring its size not unduly thirty. My average in mixed driving of 25 miles to the gallon fell neatly in the middle of Reliant's claimed 22 to 28.

The E in GTE refers to estate. Reliant being one of the first to combine the estate car concept with a vehicle of sporting pretensions. To be precise, there is an opening rear window rather than a full tailgate and the aperture is restricted. But the luggage area is generous and it can be extended by folding the rear seats forward, together or separately.

Other recent Scimitar changes include the adoption of steering column stalks for the minor controls, a more effective fresh air ventilation system and a smarter rear. The list of standard equipment is impressive and embraces seat belts front and back, a radio and a wash/wipe for the rear window (almost essential).

The car is not cheap: £5,280 for the automatic and a further £182 for the power steering. The Ford Capri GLE, a similar car, with the same engine, is £1,000 cheaper. But one is mass produced, the other hand-built, and slightly exclusive. Good luck to it.

The warranty war

Two more shots rang out this week in the 18-month-old warranty war. The first was from Leyland, which announced improvements to its Super-cover scheme by extending the option of Automobile Association membership for a second year at an advantage. The second was from Citroën, which announced its unlimited mileage cover to be included in the purchase price.

Not to be outdone, Citroën extended its warranty from six to 12 months, with unlimited mileage, and undertook to meet the cost of roadside repairs and towing to the nearest garage. The service point in the event of a breakdown. The facility is available throughout Western Europe.

With Supercover, Fiat's Mastercover, Chrysler's Protector and the almost universal move towards a 12 month unlimited mileage warranty, the new breed of car is being coddled as never before.

But some companies have remained aloof, and sceptical. Ford is one. Mr Kenneth Prendergast, customer service director, maintains that schemes such as Supercover are an essentially negative approach. Dealers, when approached by people wanting to buy a new car, start talking about breakdowns and second-year warranties, he says in an interview in *Motor Trade Executive*. "It looks as if they lack confidence in what they are trying to sell."

Ford's policy, he adds, "is to have a simple warranty that people can understand."

Peter Waymark

Roadcasting

fascinating documentary on how the gooney bird defeated the American Navy in a new series of David Attenborough films, *Wildlife on One* (BBC1 8.35). Go to the Judge (BBC1 10.10) tells how 3,000 Pacific Islanders took Britain to court, a profile of majestic American film director King Vidor (BBC 9.0) is followed by classic silent film *The Crowd* (BBC2 10.0). Comedy show *Get Some In!* (ITV 7.5) is a new run with some rather leaden humour.—T.S.

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